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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

"WHAT will he do with it?" is the question every one asks when speaking of the enormous army kept on foot at such a ruinous charge by the present ruler of the French. For the existence of this permanent danger to the liberties of Europe our forefathers are mainly responsible—at least, so we are gravely informed by the most powerful of our daily contemporaries. This reading of modern history is, surely, as erroneous as it is novel. It may, indeed, be a fair question for debate whether Pitt's judgment was altogether unclouded in waging such a relentless war against the French Republic after the principles of international law had been recognised, and internal tranquillity restored, by the First Consul. But it does rather unsettle one's most carefully-formed conclusions to be told on high authority that it was a great mistake to deprive France of her colonial dependencies. If a specious, it is certainly a hollow, argument to assert that the possession of Canada and the West India Islands would have diverted the attention of that warlike people from military enterprise to the peaceful pursuits of commerce. It was not then for the first time that the profession of arms became a ruling passion with our restless neighbours. Had it not been for the ambition of the Grand Monarque should we ever have heard of the campaigns of William III. or of the victories of Marlborough? However brilliant and versatile, the genius of the French nation has never at any period distinguished itself by success in trading adventure or in the development of colonies. Though possessed of an immense length of coast, France has won no fame by her maritime expeditions, and, with the exception of La Perouse, she can claim scarcely a single navigator of renown. Her most popular naval heroes, too, have been little superior to skilful privateers, and, as a rule, her seamen are deficient in the reckless hardihood, the patient resolution, and the fertility of resources which characterise all true mariners. These great attributes would not have been imparted by the possession of Canada, though a pretext would undoubtedly have been afforded for the maintenance of a powerful navy. Already it is alleged that naval armaments on an increased

scale are necessitated by the recent settlements in Oceania and the more recent and still more barren conquests in Cochi China. The excuse is too transparent to blind even a member of the Peace Society; but would it have been so had France been called upon to protect valuable islands and a wide expanse of territory on the other side of the Atlantic? We cannot agree, then, with our contemporary that our fathers were so benighted in their colonial policy that, for the sake of an immediate benefit to themselves, they have bequeathed to their posterity an incessant and wakeful apprehension of the designs of their nearest neighbour.

France must still be the burden of our remarks on passing events, for domestic affairs are so utterly destitute of point that our leading journals are literally reduced to the extremity of discussing the various systems of shoeing horses. Now and again, perchance, they may burst forth in exultant hymns to Bacchus, and gratefully sing the praises of "Massic, Setin, or renown'd Falern," but presently the "vini vis acris" asserts its supremacy, and then

*Consequitur gravitas membrorum, præpediuntur
Crura vacillanti, tardescit lingua, madet mens,
Nant oculi; clamor, singultus, jurgia gliscunt.*

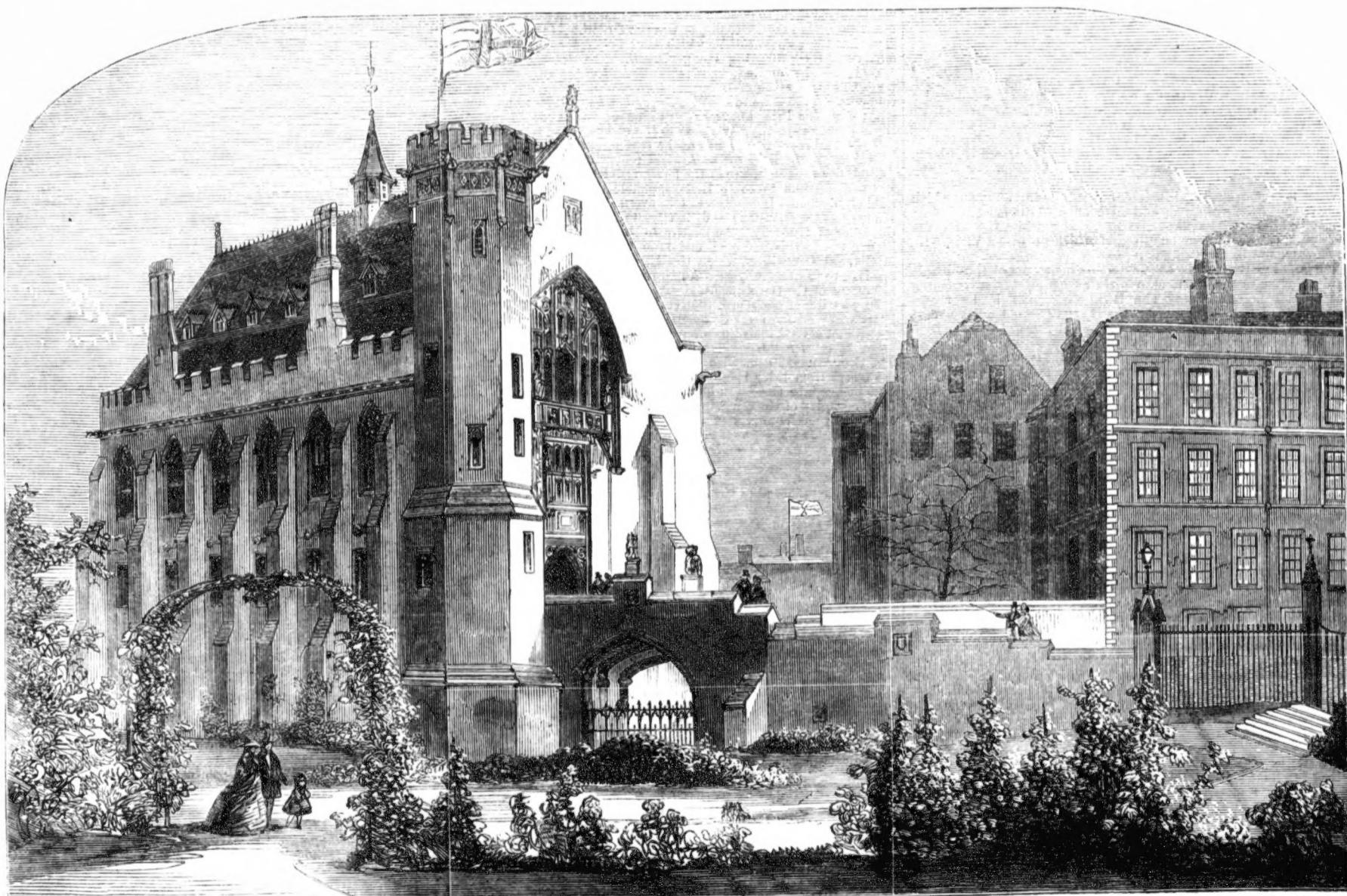
Small marvel if, reduced to this maudlin condition, they maund in sickly sentences on the virtues of water, and even libel our ancestors as being addicted to that ungenerous beverage. What if fountains were erected in every square and conduits ran in every street? Is it forgotten that water was not then laid on to every floor in the house, and that it was only from wells that this element, so useful as an external application, was then to be procured? Besides, what made our great old fathers athirst? Clearly copious potations of mead and ale, and the thin wines of France. Tea was unhappily unknown, and thus when a man thirsted, as owing to his "porous clay" he had a right to do, there was no choice but to repair to the nearest pump. A sad necessity, in truth, and one that should reconcile us to our own fate in having fallen upon these degenerate days, when a Minister of State is deified for giving his fellow-citizens a draught of cold water.

Far more suggestive are the topics provided by our ingenious friends and doubtful allies across the Channel, in whose eyes

sparkling water and the bright sunshine are anachronisms in a civilised era and the remnants of barbarism. By that refined and cultured people science is justly more valued than the weaknesses of humanity, and sentiment is appreciated if feeling be ignored. Their august Ruler, however, has lived so long in this unimaginative island as to have acquired many insular prejudices, and among them he has learned to shudder and sicken at the sufferings of dumb animals. He cannot, therefore, understand the propriety of torturing live creatures to death in order to discover the seat of life. No more experiments, then, will be made upon the bleeding and palpitating breast of the pigeon, the disbrained head of the cat, or the convulsed limbs and quivering eyeballs of larger animals. Vivisection is doomed, and insult heaped upon injury through the officious intervention of "perfidie Albion," who, not content with teaching the lively Gaul how to be rich and prosperous, now seeks to teach him how to be humane.

Another lesson learned by Louis Napoleon during his many years of exile was as to the value of an aristocracy. Unfortunately, it is not an institution that can at once be called into being by the word of an autocrat. It is of slow growth, and needs the storms and sunshine of centuries to attain to maturity. Princes and dukes, counts and barons, judges and marshals, may, indeed, be thrown off in any number by the Imperial machinery; but these have only the vices without any of the virtues of that class so dear to the tenth Muse discovered by Lord John Manners. A batch of peers created by the will of an irresponsible master is simply a group of time-serving flatterers conspicuously exposed to the envy of less fortunate sycophants. It is certainly not an aristocracy, but rather the reverse; and this fact will probably be made known to Louis Napoleon, or his successor, in the first hour of trial.

If Mme. Roland could protest with justice against the abuse of the sacred name of Liberty in justification of the most atrocious crimes, with not less justice might that ill-fated lady now protest against the very definition of Liberty as illustrated by the Imperial rule. It has been officially declared that the censorship is abolished, and that the press is free. Free to do what? Free to support the Government, free to



THE NEW LIBRARY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, OPENED BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES ON THURSDAY LAST.



fawn upon those placed in high authority, free to bespatter the Imperial family with fulsome adulation, free to make merry music with its fetters, and tread a polonaise in honour of its gaolers. If a writer of unimpeachable honour, of rare ability, of statesmanlike discernment, presume to call things by their right names, to tear down the flimsy barrier that serves only to shut out the sight of the yawning precipice at the feet of the nation—to point out what is amiss and suggest a remedy—his patriotic and truthful statements are stigmatised as “lying assertions,” and this highminded gentleman is gibbeted as an enemy of his country, a conspirator, and the fomenter of disorder. That a brave, intelligent, high-spirited, people should tamely submit to a system founded on fraud and violence, and upheld by injustice and brutality, is one of the strange problems that future historians and philosophers will be troubled to decipher.

In conclusion, what shall we say of the “potent, grave, and reverend seigniors” who have this week been playing at “make believe” with the Heir Apparent to the throne of England? Called to the Bar, and elected a Bencher, his Royal Highness has now a profession to fall back upon when Great Britain shall be administered by President Bright. But the connection between opening a library of law books for the use of members and students of the legal profession, and the addition of a Royal Prince to the long list of briefless barristers, is not at first sight apparent; and we trust that the Archbishop of Canterbury will not think it necessary to follow this precedent by conferring holy orders upon his Royal Highness the first time he happens to lay the foundation-stone of a church. Already a “gallant officer” and a “learned brother,” our future Sovereign may now look forward hopefully to the time when he shall tack to his name the honoured initials D.D., and, may be, M.R.C.S., and even M.D.

THE PRINCE OF WALES AT THE TEMPLE.

The usually silent courts of the Temple have been quite alive for several days past with preparations for the visit of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, which took place on Thursday, on which occasion the Prince was elected a Bencher of the Middle Temple, and opened the magnificent new Library. The Benchers have spared neither trouble nor expense to do honour to the occasion and to afford accommodation to all who had a claim to be present. The demand for tickets was much greater than was anticipated, as members of the society came up from all parts of the country to be present at the ceremony. To meet the demands for accommodation, which the Temple Hall was quite inadequate to afford, a spacious pavilion was erected in the Fountain Court, which was capable of containing about 500 persons. The hall and gardens were generally very handsomely decorated, and in the small garden round the fountain there were arcades of evergreens illuminated with the lime light, which were exceedingly pretty and much frequented in the evening. The lighting of the hall, too, was rearranged so as to show off the fine oak carving, and altogether the preparations for the interesting ceremony were most complete and tasteful.

The Prince arrived at two o'clock, and was received by a guard of honour, composed of eighty rank and file of the Inns of Court Volunteers, commanded by Captain Lyslie and Lieutenant Babington. The Prince was first conducted to the Parliament Chamber, where he was called to the Bar and elected a Bencher; he then went in procession with the other Benchers to the new Library, which was opened in due form. Here an address was presented to his Royal Highness, which he acknowledged in becoming terms. There was then a short service in the Temple Church, for which a special form of prayer had been drawn up by the Master. Then followed a déjeuner in the hall and pavilion, and in the evening a conversazione in the library. We believe this is the first occasion on which the hall of the Middle Temple has been the scene of any banquet at which Royalty has been present since the time of Queen Elizabeth, when, as is understood, Shakespeare read his “Midsummer Night’s Dream” before the Queen.

We will next week fully illustrate the interesting ceremony which we have thus briefly noticed, and give such additional particulars as may be likely to interest our readers. Meanwhile, the following description of the Library building, of which we give a View, will, we dare say, not be unacceptable.

The building is situated at the north-west corner of the Temple Gardens, close to the river, stands clear from all the surrounding edifices, and is exceedingly simple in form, and by no means elaborate in detail. The entrance and river fronts are the most ornate. The porch, with its angle statues of Richard Cœur de Lion and the Protector Pembroke, and the traceried window above in the former, and the handsome bay window in the latter, are very good both in design and execution; though we must take exception to the ugly, ill-managed addition of the buttress beneath the bay window. The two side elevations appear to us poor in design, except the grotesques in the stringcourses. The lofty roof of red and grey tiles, with its dormers and lantern, is a good feature; but the very unsubstantial-looking chimney-shafts rising from the battlements are not good in effect. Gilt finials ornament the lantern and the dormers in the roof; and the Temple cognisance of the lamb (emblematic of the lawyers’ innocence) is repeated in various parts of the building.

The whole of the exterior is of Bath stone, and will be more agreeable to the eye when its excessive lightness is toned down by time.

The entrance is by a terrace, but there is a story beneath the floor thus reached. The doorways to this lower floor are in the centre of the side fronts. Through the principal doorway we enter a hall with a panelled wood ceiling, and, ascending the spiral staircase in the tower before named, gain access to the Library—a splendid apartment, 85ft. long by 42ft. wide. It is lighted by seven windows on each side, the large bay window, and a seven-light traceried window at the opposite end. Massive corbels, composed of short double columns, one in front of the other, their base decorated with the arms of different Chancellors support the principals of the wide and lofty wooden roof of pitch pine, through which, with good effect, steal gleams of light from the lantern and small dormers in the upper portion of the roof. The hammerbeams are carved with angels holding shields. The windows will be filled with stained glass. The upper portions of the walls are lined with Bath stone. Below this run the bookcases. The floor is of Parian or Portland cement. The whole height of the Library is 63ft. to the under side of the ridge of the roof. It is heated with hot-water pipes.

From the landing of the principal staircase a smaller one is reached in the angle formed by the junction of the tower and main building, which leads to two rooms in the upper part of the tower, to be occupied by the librarian. Altogether it is a very creditable building, and has been erected from the designs and under the superintendence of the architect, Mr. H. R. Abraham.

THE LEGISLATURE OF CALIFORNIA has offered a prize of £2000 to the first grower on Californian soil of 50,000lb. of cotton.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There is little news of interest from France. An uneasy feeling is said to pervade society in Paris in consequence of a deeply-felt impression that the peace of Europe will ere long be again disturbed. The financial difficulties of the Bank of France also continue to cause uneasiness; and a new pamphlet has contributed to the same result. This brochure is entitled “England, Austria, and the Conference at Compiegne,” and, violently attacking Great Britain for her alleged encroaching and acquisitive propensities, declares that France ought to follow a similar course, and “seize her own wherever she finds it, whether that be in Madagascar or Algeria,” or in the “rectification of the frontiers”—the latter expression being understood to have a reference to the Rhine. The advantage to Prussia of a close alliance with France rather than with England is also insisted on; but how the “rectification of the Rhine frontier,” in the sense which our neighbours attach to the phrase, can be of special advantage to Prussia, it is somewhat difficult to understand. But little inconsistencies of that sort do not greatly embarrass French pamphleteers. The unsatisfactory result of Sig. Ratazzi’s mission to Paris is another source of disquiet. It is said that the Italian statesman has succeeded only in ascertaining the positive decision of the Emperor not to remove his troops from Rome. The French Government recognise all the evils of this occupation for Italy, but the difficulties in the way are at present too great for the Emperor to renounce the duty imposed on him by the Catholic Powers of protecting the Pope. These are the themes of conversation in the French capital; but, as they are founded more on speculation than on facts, no definite conclusions can be deduced from the data supplied.

Several cases of yellow fever have occurred on board a ship lying in the port of Bordeaux. Every measure of precaution has been taken by the authorities.

A Belgian journal having stated that negotiations had been entered upon for the cession of Venetia by Austria, the Paris papers make an especial point of asserting that there is no truth in the rumour.

SPAIN.

The bases of a treaty for the final settlement of the war indemnity to be paid to Spain by Morocco were arranged on Monday. Morocco is to pay sixty millions of reals, which, along with the customs duties to be assigned, will make up the amount of two hundred millions of reals still due to Spain. Tetuan is then to be restored to Morocco.

In consequence of the death of the Infanta Donna Maria the opening of the Cortes has been adjourned until the 8th of November. The Pope has sent a message to the Queen condoling with her Majesty on the loss of her daughter.

ITALY.

King Victor Emmanuel, who was not to have gone to Naples until the month of January next, has resolved on proceeding there to be present at the installation of General de la Marmora. His Majesty will leave about the middle of November. Almost all the Ministers will accompany the King. Three only will remain at Turin, but they in their turn will also go to Naples, where his Majesty will remain longer than was at first expected.

The Government have authorised Messrs. Rothschild, of Paris, to receive the last two-fifths of the National Loan, which, according to a recent decree, may be paid in four monthly instalments of ten per cent each.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

The Emperor has returned to Vienna from an excursion to Corfu, where he went to visit the Empress.

The Cardinal Primate of Hungary has delivered a speech in his quality of Obergéspan of the Comitat of Gran, in which he declared that he would not only refuse to order the functionaries of the Comitat to co-operate in the levy of recruits for the army, but he would forbid them to do so. He further said that the Emperor should come to Buda in order to dispel the fears of the Hungarians with regard to their Constitution, which they believed to be in danger, and should convocate the Hungarian Diet as soon as possible. He expressed a desire for the postponement of the questions of the taxes and the levying of troops, and concluded by saying that the collection of the taxes by military execution should be immediately stopped. The Primate has been summoned to Vienna by order of the Emperor to justify himself as to the speech above mentioned.

The members of the Council of the Hungarian Chancery have sent an address to the Emperor of Austria requesting him to withdraw himself from the influence of the foreign advisers who surround him, and inviting him to go to Buda, assemble the Obergéspanne, and publicly declare his readiness to govern in conformity with the Hungarian Constitution; and, finally, to appoint an Archduke as Governor of Hungary. An answer in the negative is said to have been given to this address; and it is further reported that, at a Ministerial Council, at which the Emperor presided, it had been resolved to form a Hungarian Administration to carry out fully the intentions of the Government.

In a sitting of the representatives of Kuschau, on the 22nd ult., a letter was read from the Commandant of the place in which it was stated that several individuals were accustomed to disturb the public peace by cries of “Long live Garibaldi!” “Long live Kosuth!” The Commandant demanded that the municipality should prevent the troops from being insulted by such cries, or the soldiers would take justice into their own hands. It was replied that the persons in the employ of the municipal authorities were not the offenders; that the representatives of the city did not regard the military commandant as a supreme authority; and that they could not obey his orders as the state of siege had not yet been proclaimed in Hungary. At the same time it is resolved to invite confidentially the chief of corporations, schoolmasters, &c., to call the attention of those under their influence to the threats of the military authorities, in order that a collision may be averted.

It is not alone in Hungary that the Cabinet of Vienna has incessant struggles to support. Transylvania is also the theatre of serious embarrassments. A rescript of the Emperor ordered the meeting of the Diet of that province, but the administrative commission has hitherto thrown obstacles in the way of the convocation. According to letters from Vienna, it is in contemplation to dissolve the commission, and to confide the management of the province to an Imperial Commissioner Extraordinary, as has been done in several Comitats in Hungary.

The Austrian Government is shortly about to publish the statute of the Lombardo-Venetian kingdom. A letter in the *Press* of Vienna affirms that the statute is actually drawn up, and that the present condition of Venetia is believed to encourage its promulgation, and the consequent adoption of something professing to be constitutional government there.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The Emperor was expected to return to St. Petersburg on the 28th ult. The Empress will prolong her stay in the Crimea.

Letters received from St. Petersburg, dated the 25th ult., announce that fresh conflicts took place between the authorities and the students at the reopening of the University. Seven hundred students applied for readmission, and on the 24th ult. demanded that those students who had not received a card of admission should nevertheless be admitted into the University. Fresh tumults thereupon ensued in the University buildings, resulting in the interference of the military. The students made an active resistance; 200 of them were arrested. Several students were wounded. It is not thought that this conflict will lead to the reclosing of the University.

Matters seem to be still in an unsettled state in Poland, but no violent outbreak has taken place. Though the churches still remained closed, negotiations were going on for reopening them. The people prayed before the doors, but no longer sang the national songs. General Laubert, Governor of Poland is ill, and has left Warsaw. General Luders has been named as his successor. General Gerstenzweig, Military Governor of Poland, is dead, and General Abramowitsch appointed in his stead. The Marquis Wileopolski has tendered his resignation, which, however, it is said, has not been accepted. Several of the persons who attended the funeral of the Archbishop of Warsaw have been arrested—indeed, arrests continue to be made every day. Martial law is general throughout the country, even private soldiers being authorised to exercise its powers at their own judgment and discretion; and, altogether, affairs are in a very unsatisfactory state.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Porte continues sadly perplexed with the discontent prevailing in its semi-dependent provinces. On the Servian difficulty the Sultan is about to appeal to Europe in the shape of a note to the great Powers. The Servians, on their side, publish a note in which they charge the Turkish Government with encroaching on their rights and with placing an army on their frontiers, but declare themselves willing to come to a good understanding with the Porte on the removal of the grievances. The insurrection in the Herzegovina is spreading. The Montenegrins have invaded Schumla, and fighting has been going on for the last two or three days, and the accounts state that the Turks have suffered greatly in these and other conflicts, the troops of the Porte are represented as being without pay and necessities, and to be in an almost mutinous state.

MEXICO.

The ordinary Session of the Mexican Congress was opened on Sept. 16, when the President made a statement as to the cause of the suspension of diplomatic relations between the Republic and England and France. He said:—“In order to accomplish the important object of concentrating the Federal revenues and arranging their methodic distribution the Government had to initiate a measure in the middle of July, the tendency of which to morality and order was comprehended by the Sovereign Congress, and which originated the decree of the 17th of the same month. But the representatives of those nations whose interests were temporarily affected by this decree did not act justly, neither to the circumstances which made it necessary nor to the objects it had in view, and they suspended relations with the Government of the Republic in consequence of this measure. The Sovereign Congress had cognisance of this incident, and declared itself in recess, but nothing has transpired to alter the position of this question. Efforts are being made to arrange with the respective Governments, and that of Mexico has reason to believe that the question will have a satisfactory solution.”

The rulers of Mexico have sought the friendly intervention of the United States in their behalf, with a view to the settlement of their difficulties with foreign Powers. It is said that they have asked the Federal Government to act as trustees of the Mexican revenues in order to pay the interest of the national debt.

INDIA.

From India we have news of the active efforts which are being made by both natives and Europeans to cultivate cotton. There is much that is encouraging in the reports from Tinnivelli, from Central and North-Western India, and even from Oude—so recently the scene of war. The fact that the Godavery, which traverses a rich cotton district, is now navigable, is also pregnant with hope. There is no political news of interest from our Eastern empire, where all appears to be tranquil. The damage done by the recent floods was very considerable.

THE CONFLICT IN AMERICA.

There have been three arrivals from America since our last issue but the news brought is not very definite or important, except one item, which is of special interest to this country.

Lord Lyons, it appears, had protested against the arbitrary confinement of British subjects, and had received from Mr. Seward a somewhat flippant reply. Mr. Seward coolly informed our Ambassador that, under present circumstances, all classes of society must cheerfully acquiesce in measures which the safety of the people demand; and added that the British Government would hardly expect the President to accept their explanation of the American Constitution. Except some fighting at Harper’s Ferry, there is little to report in that line. Battles were expected at Kentucky and at Carthage, Missouri. General Price had taken his stand at the latter place. The only information we have of the army on the Potomac is that the Federal troops had advanced two miles from Lewinsville. The large naval expedition which sailed from New York was to rendezvous at Annapolis to embark troops and artillery before proceeding South. A Confederate force is said to have attacked the Federalists at Santa Rosa Island, spiked the guns, and taken a number of prisoners; on the other side it is reported that the Federal troops from Kansas had repulsed the Confederates near Greenfield with much loss. No account of the naval engagement at New Orleans, in which the telegram stated that the Confederates had driven all the Federal vessels on shore, had been received at New York.

Rumours are still current of the recall of General Fremont. Meanwhile we learn that General Price, at the head of 20,000 men, had made a stand near Osceola, in Western Missouri; and that he had burned the Big River bridge in his retreat. Further, that General Fremont was laying down a pontoon for the purpose of crossing the Osage and encountering his enemy.

Mr. Seward has addressed a circular to those States which remain loyal to the Union urging them to improve their sea and lake defences in view of the possibility of any differences with foreign Governments arising out of the present troubled state of affairs. Notwithstanding the intrigues of the Southern States to involve the country in disputes with foreign Governments, the prospect of any serious misunderstanding, he says, is less than hitherto; yet it is necessary, he adds, in order to be respected, to be prepared.

The New York banks have offered for the third 50,000,000 dollars of the Federal loan and for 100,000,000 dollars of Seven per Cent Bonds.

STRENGTH OF THE FEDERAL ARMY.

Not the slightest reliance is to be placed on the published accounts of the numbers of men in the armies or their whereabouts. The authorities at Washington have learned the value of secrecy, and they keep the facts to themselves. An instance of the unreliability of figures—which can be made to lie—is afforded by what has happened in Missouri. In the early part of September it was announced that General Fremont would soon have 60,000 men under his immediate command, and the heart of the country was very high over the fact; but there was a corresponding depression three weeks later when the General could not send reinforcements from St. Louis to Lexington, and when he left the former place to march against Price he had not above 20,000. The forces at Washington or near it are popularly estimated at 200,000 men, but I fear they do not reach above 150,000 men, because I cannot ascertain whence so many men have been sent to the capital, counting the various regiments that are known to have there rendezvoused. The New England troops in that quarter do not exceed 35,000 men. The New York and Pennsylvania troops may carry the number up to 100,000. Putting the Western men at 40,000, and those of New Jersey and the regular troops would not more than furnish enough to make 150,000. An officer from Fortress Monroe tells me that the men in that part of the country are 9000; and there are 20,000 at Baltimore, according to current statements. This makes 179,000, without

counting the troops in Western Virginia, who are estimated at 47,000. There were 27,000 in Kentucky a week ago, and we hear of reinforcements reaching that State. It is not probable that there are above 50,000 in Missouri, including those in garrison. That the army in Washington is not so large as is commonly stated is proved by the appearance of an article in the *Washington Star*, which says that 50,000 more troops are there required, and complaining that the stories that are current as to the strength of the "Grand Army" prevent men from enlisting, as they believe their services are not required. If there were not so many men at Washington by 50,000, as there are, and those 50,000 were in Missouri and Kentucky, it would be all the better for the Union cause.—*Correspondent of the Morning Post.*

STATE OF DISCIPLINE AMONG THE TROOPS.

The volunteers, although not subjected to very rigorous discipline, yet ill brook the restraints of military life. It is not uncommon for desperate affrays to occur in and out of camp. A few days ago a private named Moran, belonging to a Pennsylvania regiment, shot his Major. For some act of insubordination the officer had him tied to the rear of a wagon while the regiment was on the road. Moran got loose, however, and, upon the Major riding up to him, observed, "You see I'm loose!" "It will not take long to tie you again," rejoined the Major, getting off his horse at the same time. While in the act of alighting Moran seized a loaded musket out of the wagon, and shot his officer through the lungs. The culprit was sentenced by court-martial to be hanged. Since this occurrence a private in the same regiment, named Martin, cousin of Moran, shot two officers out of revenge, one being wounded very badly. Although whisky is strictly prohibited from being brought into the encampments by the officers in command, it is smuggled in somehow. Where it is not procured in barrels the men bring it in their canteens, and the guards are not particular in examining them. This is the cause of constant rows and perpetual drunkenness. A serious and tragical affray took place a week since at Darnestown, Md., where the 5th Connecticut Regiment is encamped. A number of soldiers got intoxicated, a row took place, resort was had to arms, one person was killed, several wounded, and a number of cattle and horses shot. These are far from being unusual occurrences.

Notwithstanding the legal provisions made to prevent drunkenness amongst the soldiers who go into Washington, they manage to procure drink somehow, and they are constantly met with lying helpless on doorsteps and on the pavements, sometimes even in the gutters! This is the more astonishing as, by an Act of Congress, in force since April last, no barkeeper in the district of Columbia is allowed, under the penalty of 25 dollars or imprisonment for thirty days, to serve spirituous drink to "any soldier or volunteer, or any one wearing the uniform of such soldier or volunteer." Officers, however, are not restricted from frequenting bar-rooms, although, perhaps, it might have been as well had they also been included in the provisions of the Act of Congress, for their character for sobriety is not irreproachable. A Colonel has been seen in a leading hotel so inebriated, and making himself so ridiculous at the supper-table, as to afford ample merriment to the negroes in attendance.

THE FEDERAL FINANCES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

It is asserted that the entire revenue from customs for the fiscal year that will end June 30, 1862, will not exceed 20,000,000 dollars, which is not equal to the third part of our expenditure in time of peace. The direct taxes, therefore, must be made to produce something like 50,000,000 dollars in order that we may pay our way for ordinary matters, while depending upon loans for extraordinary ones. If the war should go on without any decrease of its proportions another loan for 150,000,000 dollars will have to be negotiated soon after the beginning of the new year, as the last instalment of the first loan of that amount is to be paid on the 15th of December. At the close of the present year the entire public debt will amount to about 320,000,000 dollars, supposing all the loans negotiated shall have matured and the money been paid into the Treasury. On the present scale, and after allowing most liberally for the ordnance department, the war expenditures ought not to exceed 4,000,000 dollars a week; but they must be quite up to 7,000,000 dollars, if it be true, as the Secretary of the Treasury says it is, that the public expenditure is 1,200,000 dollars a day. There must be an enormous amount of cheating somewhere. Corruption and favouritism are much suspected, but it is more probable that ignorance and incapacity are the causes of the wastefulness at Washington. Secretary Chase has said that the public good requires the removal of General Fremont from his command, and the public is beginning to believe that its good would be much promoted if the Secretary of the Treasury were removed from his place. He is no financier, and beyond borrowing money he has done nothing that belongs to his office. Six months hence, when borrowing will probably not be so easy a business as it is now, his reputation will not be worth the envy of even a seedy politician.—*Post correspondent.*

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN BLOCKADE.

A CORRESPONDENCE on the subject of the blockade of the ports of the seceded States of America has passed between Earl Russell and Mr. H. W. Hayman, of Liverpool. The points raised and the decision of the Government upon them will be gathered from the subjoined letter from the secretary of the noble Lord to Mr. Hayman:

Foreign Office, Sept. 19.
Sir,—I am directed by Earl Russell to acquaint you that the questions raised by your letters of Aug. 29 and Sept. 4 were of considerable importance, and rendered it necessary for his Lordship to communicate with the law officers of the Crown previously to answering your letters. You stated in your letter of Aug. 29 that, in conjunction with other merchants, you contemplated fitting out a number of vessels for the purpose of trading with the port of New Orleans and other ports of the United States of America, and that, looking to the undisturbed state of friendly relations between her Majesty and the United States, you apprehend that British ships had a right, under the law of nations, upon the strict principle of reciprocity, to enter into and depart from the ports and harbours of the United States. You say that you ask and hope that these vessels will be protected by her Majesty's cruisers; but that, if such protection, from reasons of State policy, should be withheld, you will be prepared to defend yourselves as best you may in the pursuit of your legitimate trade, and that all parties hindering you in the same will become responsible for the consequences. In your letter of Sept. 4 you say that, contending as you do that the blockade of certain ports of the United States as against the ships of this country is an infringement of international law, nugatory and unavailable, you claim the protection of her Majesty's Government for the mercantile expedition in question, and at the same time Lord Russell's permission to defend itself in case of need. Understanding, from the tenor of your letters, that the ports to which your vessels are to proceed are ports which are or may be blockaded by the naval forces of the United States, Lord Russell directs me to warn you of the serious consequences which the measures contemplated, as stated in your letters, will entail on all concerned therein, and to inform you that her Majesty's Government will not afford the slightest protection or countenance to the projected enterprise. The United States and the so-called Confederate States are engaged in a civil war, and her Majesty's Government have recognised that state of things, and have taken up a position of neutrality between the contending parties. Under these circumstances, if any British ship, being a neutral, knowingly attempts to break an effective blockade, she is liable to capture and condemnation. If such ship defends herself by force against a national vessel enforcing such blockade, such defence is a breach of the law of nations, and will expose the ship and cargo to condemnation as prize, and those persons who commit the act to personal responsibility and severe treatment according to the law of war, the act of such persons being considered by the law and usage of nations as one of unjustifiable hostility. I am to state that the general rule as to trading by neutrals in time of war with belligerents is, that they may freely trade, but that they are bound to respect every effective blockade, and that if they carry contraband of war to either belligerents they do so at the risk of capture and condemnation by the other, if discovered. I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

E. HAMMOND.

H. W. Hayman, Esq., 4, Chapel-street, Liverpool.

IRELAND.

REMARKABLE TRIAL.—A trial has this week been brought to a close in Dublin, which has excited a great deal of interest not only in that city but throughout the kingdom. The evidence was very voluminous, the trial having lasted five days; but the facts may be stated in a few words. On the 27th of September a young lady, Miss Jolly, most respectably connected, was placed by her brother in a cab in Sackville-street, Dublin, to be driven to Rathmines, a suburb of that city. After proceeding some distance she discovered that the cabman had not taken the right road, and intimated the fact to him, when he stopped the cab, attempted to get inside, but failing in that dragged the lady out, and commenced a disgraceful assault upon her. After considerable struggling, Miss Jolly succeeded in making her escape, and took refuge in the house of the master of a contiguous railway station, where she was kindly and hospitably entertained. Her clothes were torn, and she had sustained considerable bruises and injuries. An investigation was instituted by the authorities, which resulted in the arrest of John Curran, car-driver. The only point of difficulty in the case was as to the identity of Curran as the perpetrator of the outrage. This, however, was satisfactorily established, notwithstanding the manifest perjury of one of the witnesses for the prosecution. On Wednesday the jury returned a verdict of "Guilty," and Curran was sentenced to two years' penal servitude.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The liberal aid offered to the Queen's Colleges by Sir Robert Peel has had the effect of stimulating a corresponding liberality on the part of a Catholic citizen, who has placed £20 a year for each of five scholarships for the ensuing ten years at the disposal of the Rector of the Catholic University.

THE APPREHENDED FAMINE.—The failure of the potato crop and the apprehensions of famine consequent thereon continue to be the theme of animadversion in the Irish papers. The journals which represent the Catholic portion of the community are loud in their declarations as to the extent of the evil, and in demanding Government aid; while the Protestant and neutral prints are still inclined to doubt both the necessity and the wisdom of governmental interference. Of the first class of opinions the *Irish Times* may be taken as the exponent. It says:—"A public meeting of the gentry and clergy of Connemara was held on Wednesday week in the Court House of Clifden. Mr. George Robinson, J.P., of Ballinalack Castle, occupied the chair. The requisition for convening the meeting was signed by gentlemen of influence in the locality, and of all creeds and parties. The resolutions, unanimously passed, declare 'that the cereal crops are far below the average'; that 'two-thirds of the potato crop are diseased and the rest unfit for food'; that what grain there is 'is seriously damaged by the constant rain'; and that already 'a scarcity of fuel exists.' The meeting decided that these facts should be embodied in a memorial to be laid before the Executive praying for a timely interposition on the part of Government to prevent the recurrence of famine and the sacrifice of life. almost unexplored mountains of Connemara; much might be done in the way of drainage and other public works."

On the other hand, the *Northern Whig* thus comments on the matter:—"The partial failure of the potato crop this season has fallen with great severity on the small farmers and day labourers of Connacht; and, as usual, the cry for Government aid is raised by those who abuse the Saxons in favourable seasons and beg from them in unfavourable ones. The five counties of the west comprise an area of nearly four millions and a half of acres. Of these, only about eight hundred thousand acres are under crop, all the remainder being either wholly or partially waste. With what ideas of right can men who should know better call on the Government for assistance towards the relief of the poor while the raw material of comfort and independence lies at their very doors, and while the legitimate sources of charity withhold their contributions? We are well aware that in 1822 and in 1831, as well as in 1847, during the terrific visitation of famine, the resident gentry of the west, lay and clerical, displayed the utmost liberality in their aid of local destitution; and it is also well known that then, as now, the absentee owners of land did very little in the same cause. Most unjust, then, is the current cry for State assistance now ringing in different portions of Connacht. We grant that the potato disease has prevailed largely this season, that it has destroyed more of the crop than was so carried off in any year since 1846; but it must not be forgotten that the yield of all qualities, good and bad, is very large; and that if a full third of the whole be lost, the remainder would give a moderate yield, at least in all well-situated lands. Depopulation, rack-rents, neglected cultivation, and absentee landlordism have produced their natural result. These are matters of consideration, especially at this time, when the wail of famine is again heard from the very quarter of Ireland which teems with the sources of agricultural prosperity."

GOLD IN IRELAND.—Some specimens of auriferous quartz found on the shore of Lough Swilly on the 16th ult. have been exhibited in Londonderry. The quartz is considered to be exactly similar to that of the gold-producing countries. The specimens in question were taken from Government land, which is not likely to be explored by miners, but there is little doubt that plenty of the same kind of rock is to be found in the bold heights of that neighbourhood, and would probably remunerate those who have time and means to search for it. The locality where the quartz was found was within ten miles of Derry. The vein from which the specimens were taken was from 9 to 12 in. thick, 20 or 30 ft. high, and running through a block of headland of considerable depth.

SCOTLAND.

THE OLDEST SHIP AFLOAT.—The Jean of Charlestown, a sloop of about thirty tons register, is at present in Leith Docks, and is probably the oldest ship afloat. She came originally into the possession of the Elgin family, and is, we believe, still the property of the present noble Earl, retained as an heirloom of the year 1736. Previous to that period she was a Danish boat. Her timbers are still sound and in good condition. She is a well-known trader in the Firth of Forth, and, should no unforeseen accident befall her, may thus continue her course for a number of years to come.

MONUMENT TO JOHN LEYDEN.—The monument to the memory of Dr. John Leyden, the poet and linguist, which has been erected in his native village of Denholm, Roxburghshire, was inaugurated a few days ago, amid a vast assemblage of the admirers of his genius. On the monument are the following inscriptions:—"John Leyden, born at Denholm, 8th September, 1775. Died at Batavia, 28th August, 1811." "To the memory of the poet and Oriental scholar, whose genius, learning, and many virtues were an honour to his country, and shed a lustre on his native Tiviotdale, this monument was erected A.D. 1861." The Right Hon. the Earl of Minto and Admiral Elliot were present, and took part in the inaugural ceremony.

COMMUNICATION WITH THE SOUTHERN STATES OF AMERICA.—At a recent meeting, the directors of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce agreed to memorialise Government to use its influence with the Government of the United States to allow of some arrangement being made for the transmission of letters from this country to the Southern States, the Post Office authorities of America having intimated that all letters to the Southern States would be returned to the writers through the dead-letter office.

THE POTATO CROP IN SCOTLAND.—At the Perth market last week potatoes were almost unsaleable, and most dealers are afraid to make purchases, as the esculent is fast giving way in the pits. So rapid, indeed, is the decay that large quantities lifted about a fortnight ago and pitted are already scarcely fit even for the farina-mill. The prices obtained for sound potatoes of the best quality were 12s. to 14s. per bushel of 5 cwt. At the farina-mills the price is 5s. to 5s. 6d. per bushel.

BEQUESTS BY THE LATE LADY MURRAY.—Lady Murray has left the large sum of £5500 to Edinburgh charities, in the following proportions:—To the United Industrial School, £1500; to the Royal Infirmary, £1000; to the Deaf and Dumb Institutions, £1000 (of which £800 is to be apportioned to the establishment in Ilford-row, and £200 to that in John-street); to the Blind Asylum, £1000; and to the Edinburgh Asylum for Lunatics, £1000. All these bequests are free of legacy duty. Besides these charitable bequests of a general character, there is another worth mentioning, as showing a most benevolent extension of that careful consideration for the wants of the needy which so much distinguished her Ladyship. It is provided that "poor persons at Strachur who at her Ladyship's death may be pensioners for money, or meal, or other supplies, are to have them continued to them for life." These bequests are in addition to the pictures left by her Ladyship to the National Gallery of Scotland, formerly mentioned.

THE PROVINCES.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Saturday morning a fatal accident took place on the London and North-Western Railway near Charnock Richard, between Wigan and Preston. A platelayer, named Jolley, was engaged on the line near Barker's bridge, and, as he was getting out of the way of a passing train, a second train, the advance of which he had not noticed, owing to a fog, knocked him down, and, passing over his neck, decapitated him.

COLCHESTER OYSTER FEAST.—This annual entertainment was held on Monday evening. In the course of the proceedings Mr. Papillon, M.P., read an extract to show that the grand secret of successful oyster culture lies in the fact of the seed obtaining an immediate and permanent resting-place. In order to afford points of attachment, the French pisciculturists have hit upon the plan of sinking in the water a series of fascines, constructed out of branches of trees, and these, resting upon an artificial

bottom composed of fragments of stone and brick and pieces of broken pottery ware, afford capital breeding-ground for any quantity of oysters. As a proof of this, 20,000 small oysters were found attached to a branch plucked from one of the beds. One of the official reports of the fisheries states that the total expense of forming an oyster-bank was 221f., and, if 300 fascines laid down upon it were multiplied by 20,000, the number of oysters they contain, it would be seen that 6,000,000 were obtained, which, at 20/- per 1000, would produce 120,000f. for the 221f. originally expended.

A GIPSY ELOPEMENT AT WEYHILL FAIR.—The attendants at this fair had much amusement afforded them a few days ago by an elopement, in which the heroes of the story were members of gipsy tribes attending the fair. The tribes were named Clark and Burton, and a young man belonging to the latter party became so enamoured of one of the swarthy ladies comprised in the former, that he at once made an offer of marriage. The facts were communicated to her friends, who scornfully rejected the proposal, and the result was that on the following evening the loving ones engaged a cab, and ordered the driver to proceed with all haste to the Andover railway station. The distance (three miles) was speedily accomplished; but, their departure being discovered, the friends of the lady at once gave chase, and a most exciting chase it was. They reached the Andover-road station just two minutes after the departure of the train for Salisbury, which had conveyed the loving pair to that city, and, being met with a refusal to their application to put the electric telegraph in motion to arrest their progress, they retired disconsolate to Weyhill. The next morning witnessed the performance at Salisbury of the marriage ceremony, and the happy pair returned to Weyhill, where the differences of the previous day were brought to an amicable conclusion, and the wedding festivities kept alive all the gipsy tribes at the fair, affording much amusement to those not immediately connected with them.

FEARFUL EPIDEMIC AT OVER DARWEN.—During the past six weeks the township of Over Darwen, which contains upwards of 20,000 inhabitants, has been visited with a dire epidemic (gastric and typhus fever), which has played sad havoc amongst the inhabitants, upwards of thirty deaths having taken place from fever, and about 1000 cases have required medical aid. Dr. Hedlam Greenhow, one of the medical inspectors of the Privy Council, has made an official investigation of the township, visiting, in company with the Local Board of Health, every house in which a death had occurred, and has found the whole place in a sad and filthy state, piggerys, cesspools, &c., being situated so near to habitations that in many instances foul organic substances percolated into the abodes. All these auxiliaries to disease are being rapidly removed, and the cottage-owners are required to erect proper conveniences for their tenants. The epidemic is now on the decline, and steps are being taken to compel the Waterworks Company to provide filtering-beds to their works.

STATE OF TRADE IN LANCASHIRE.—The apprehended distress in Lancashire consequent upon the stoppage of the American trade is beginning to be realised. At Stockport the increase of pauperism is characterised as alarming. There it appears that out of 16,000 mill hands only 4000 are working full time, 2000 five days a week, 7000 three and four days, while close upon 3000 are wandering about idle. It is estimated that, taking the Manchester district, including Preston, there are at the present moment nearly 100,000 usually working in the factories totally unemployed. In Manchester alone we are told that the number of persons receiving relief from the union is one-fourth more than at the corresponding period last year. The prospect for the winter in the northern manufacturing districts is consequently looked upon with some dismay.

THE REFORM CONFERENCE AT LEEDS.—The programme of this conference has been issued. From the number of delegates that will be sent from various reform associations, and from the names of the eminent Reformers who have promised to attend the conference, the proceedings cannot fail to be of great interest, and its promoters appear to have arranged the programme with a steady view towards practical results. The days appointed for holding the conference are Nov. 18 and 19.

CHESS MATCH BY TELEGRAPH BETWEEN LIVERPOOL AND DUBLIN.—On Saturday several members of the Liverpool Chess Club opened a contest by magnetic telegraph with the Dublin Chess Club. Six games were played with the following result:—One drawn, three unfinished, and two relinquished in consequence of a misunderstanding occasioned by an error in the transmission of a move. The advantage, on the whole, was in favour of Liverpool.

DOCKS AT FALMOUTH.—A joint-stock company, under the Limited Liability Act, is in course of formation for the purpose of extending and improving the docks at Falmouth. The new works are to include a tidal harbour of forty-two acres in extent, with a depth of water of eighteen feet at low water of spring tides; a floating dock of fourteen acres area, with a depth of water of thirty-one feet; and five graving docks, with the necessary warehouses, shops, and other conveniences. The project is regarded in well-informed circles as a very promising one.

PLYMOUTH ELECTION.—The nomination for the election of a member to serve in Parliament for the borough of Plymouth took place on Wednesday morning at a hustings erected in the front of the Royal Hotel in that borough. Mr. Walter Morrison, on the Liberal interest, and the Hon. W. W. Addington on the Conservative interest, were nominated. The usual election speeches followed. The show of hands was then taken, and declared by the Mayor to be in favour of Mr. Addington. A poll was demanded on behalf of Mr. Morrison, which commenced on Thursday morning at eight o'clock. At the close of the poll Mr. Morrison was returned by a majority of 200.

REPRESENTATION OF CARLISLE.—The seat for Carlisle so recently rendered vacant by the death of Sir James Graham is already the subject of a sharp contest. Mr. Edmund Potter, of Manchester, a brother, we believe, of Sir John Potter, who for several years represented the cotton capital, has come forward in the Liberal interest. The Conservatives have addressed a requisition to Mr. Hodgson, who for several years represented Carlisle, and is personally popular in that town. Mr. Potter has held a meeting, at which he explained his opinions as those of an advanced Liberal. The leading points of his political creed are—extension of the franchise, vote by ballot, abolition of church rates, and non-intervention in the affairs of other countries. Mr. Potter was well received, and a resolution in his favour was unanimously adopted.

THE BUILDERS' STRIKE.—The masons are now the only branch of the building operatives standing out against the hour system, and about 240 men are on the strike-boats of the society. Last week the whole of the men remaining on the strike-boats of the bricklayers' society were cleared off, having obtained employment, either under the compromise, or on the old terms of the trade, at 5s. 6d. per day of ten hours: and the committee have ceased for the present any further active opposition to the system, and withdrawn their pickets from all the yards and jobs where they have been kept on for the last seven months, and are now devoting themselves to the perfecting the new organisation and amalgamation of their trade throughout the country, with the object of uniting in combined action with the other branches of the building trade, in opposition to the system, at the commencement of the building season in the spring. In the mean time, in common with the carpenters, painters, and plasterers, who are working on the hour system under protest, they have decided on giving their pecuniary support to the masons.

ROBBERY OF £5100.—A gentleman, on leaving the White Hart Hotel, Bishopsgate, last week, was hustled and robbed of twenty Spanish coupons, value £255 each, making in all £5100. Notice of the robbery has been forwarded to the stockbrokers and bankers of the kingdom, as well as to the principal cities and towns on the Continent. A reward is offered for the recovery of the property and apprehension of the thieves.

THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER.—Some important changes in the law regarding the sale of gunpowder and fireworks were made by an Act of Parliament which came into operation on the 1st of September. By one section of this enactment no person can sell, or expose for sale, any firework without a licence for the purpose; and by another the penalty for throwing fireworks in thoroughfares or other public places is raised from 20s. to £5. The most important innovation, however, is the provision that no fireworks can be sold to any person apparently under sixteen years of age without subjecting the offender to a penalty not exceeding £5. The enforcement of this prohibition would seem to threaten the reduction to very small dimensions of the trade in squibs and crackers connected with the approaching anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot.

URUGUAY.—The difference which exists between the Republic of Uruguay on the one hand, and France and England on the other, is, according to accounts from Rio Janeiro of the 25th ult., likely to be arranged, the Republic having offered an indemnity of 4,000,000f., with interest at 3 per cent; and the two Powers having accepted the sum proposed, only requiring that the interest shall be 5 per cent, and that the revenue from the Custom House or Stamp Office shall be specially set apart for the payment of the indemnity. The belief is that the Republic will accept these conditions.

MDME. TÜRK AND THE HUNGARIANS.—Mdme. TüRK, the wife of the celebrated Hungarian General, has just acknowledged a bouquet presented to her by Hungarian ladies by a letter couched in the boldest terms. She becomes Hungarian at heart, she says, "sharing your wishes and your hopes. Belonging, by my mother's side, to a family the chief of which has taken part in the national affairs, and bears the name of a battle for liberty and independence, I am proud to become the adopted daughter of so noble a country, and my hopes unite themselves with yours to see before long the commencement of a new era for this unhappy country wet with the blood of your martyrs."

ADEN.

The city of Aden is, after all, not so magnificent a possession as some people might be led to imagine. A pamphleteer of France, who, in regarding the present aspect of England and enumerating the territory she has acquired, feels a glow of indignation, which he is not slow to reduce to energetic language, includes Aden "the Gibraltar of the Red Sea," with the Isthmus of Suez, Persia, and Lagos, amongst the acquisitions of which England will have to give an account. This pamphlet, which is anonymous, is called "L'Angleterre, l'Autriche, et les Entrevues de Compiegne," and seems deeply to resent the comments of the English press on the Royal visits to the Emperor of the French. The writer says: — "England is wrong to feel so angry, and more so in accusing us of ambition. We have, it is true, in spite of her, reconquered the Alps, the natural rectification of our south-eastern frontier; and we must one day retake, without war, but by amicable cession, Landau and Sarrelouis, fortresses reconstructed by France, destined by their very position to cover Lorraine and Champagne, and constantly exposed to the attack of an enemy. What does it matter, after all, if there be the mutual ascent of the parties interested? England, that cries out so much against others, is surpassed in ambition by none. She takes everywhere, and always without troubling herself with rights, which

she tramples under foot, as if she thought that everything naturally belonged to her. Thus she dreams of the supremacy of the sea, and she takes Gibraltar from Spain. She protects the Ionian Islands against their will. She caused Malta and the Mauritius to be given up to her. She established herself at the Cape in order to have a resting-point on her way to India."

following our example. It was the policy of Lord Chatham and of Mr. Pitt to strip France of her colonial empire; and though, as we have said, in that policy is recorded our own success in two great wars, we believe we have much reason to regret, if not our victory, at any rate the use we made of it. By cutting off France from the legitimate expansion which she desired in North America and the West



VIEW OF ADEN.



BASQUE AND SPANISH PEASANTS AT BIARRITZ

In an article in the *Times* on the subject the statements and invectives of the pamphleteer are dealt with in moderate but at the same time pungent language. The writer assumes that the anonymous print will be disavowed by the French Government, and, in the course of a telling argument, says: — "Having established to his own satisfaction that England will be ruined, not by external force, but by the vast extent of her empire, he gives France the following advice: — 'Let us,' he says, 'act like England, and let us not be troubled by interested clamour; let us take our property wheresoever we find it; let our flag be raised in Madagascar; let it protect our efforts to civilise and colonise Algeria.' We leave the author to reconcile, as a good Frenchman, this advice with his estimate of the results of a similar policy to England. That is his affair; but we have only to say for ourselves that in this country there is no wish whatever to prevent, even if we had the power, the French nation from



CORONATION OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA — THE ROYAL CORTEGE PASSING THROUGH THE LANGE GASSE AT KÖNIGSBERG.— FROM A SKETCH BY M. HALLMAND.

Indies we have forced her, in a great measure, to concentrate and consolidate her power at home. The energies of that martial youth which has been so long, and still is, the terror of peaceful Europe might have been, but for our unhappy policy, expended in a more glorious and infinitely more useful conflict with the powers of nature."

Aden, the subject of our Engraving and of a portion of the ire exhibited in the letter, is a town of one of the great divisions of Arabia, called Yemen. It is situated on the coast of the Indian Ocean, and east of the entrance of the Red Sea. The place, indeed, stands on the side of a small peninsula which is connected with the mainland by a causeway built upon seven arches, through which the sea flows at the time of high water. This part of the African continent, which terminates in Cape Guardafui and the opposite coast of Arabia, forms a gulf which is frequently known as the Gulf of Aden. The town itself, however, is no very wealthy possession, although from a strategic or political point of view it may not be without value. It is the principal mart for the gums brought from Africa, and has some trade in the exportation of its coffee, but neither the buildings of the place nor the appearance of the inhabitants are indicative of a thriving community. On the north and west sides of the town on the pinnacles of the steep mountains still stand the old towers erected by the Turks; but the former more prosperous condition of Aden is better exhibited by the great cisterns excavated in the rock on the north-west side of the town, to which the water was brought by a broad aqueduct from a ravine in the mountain.

THE BASQUE PEASANTRY AT BIARRITZ.

Our readers have already seen in our columns some description of the amusements of visitors at Biarritz, a spot likely to become more and more the resort of Parisian excursionists now that it has been so distinctly honoured by the Imperial residence. It is likely, also, that, as the tide of holiday-makers flows towards it year after year, the place will lose its present features, and that even the primitive and picturesque costumes of its Basque population will disappear. It is a great pity that those pretty dresses of the water-carriers should give place to crinoline and the last new bonnet; but it must be so, for they are no more and no less than women; and even the frowns of husbands and the scoldings of mothers and fathers, who see danger in the innovation, will probably only stimulate instead of retard the movement towards fashion and the claims of society. When the wanderer represented in our illustration—who, with knapsack on back, turns to take one long, lingering look at the sea—shall return to his beloved Biarritz, he will probably find that short skirts, neatly-turned ankles, quaint headdresses, perhaps even bottle shaped, spouted water jars are there no more—that bonnets, balmoral boots, and petticoats of whalebone and wire have been adopted; while his own "queer" dress will be so laughed at that he will have to take refuge in pegtop trousers, high-shouldered coats, and curly-brimmed, crop eared hats of the newest Parisian fashion.

Before that time arrives let us take the opportunity of preserving some memorial of the costume of the Basque peasantry at Biarritz.

CORONATION OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

CHAPTER OF THE BLACK EAGLE.

In our last Number we gave a very full account of the coronation of the King and Queen of Prussia at Königsberg, together with an Engraving showing the entry of the Royal procession through the Brandenburg Gate. We this week give some other Engravings illustrative of occurrences on the occasion. One of these exhibits the procession passing along the Lange Gasse at Königsberg, and another the Chapter of the Black Eagle which the King held in the Castle of Königsberg. This last ceremony took place on the 17th, and all the environs of the castle were crowded to suffocation with people eager to witness the assembling of the Knights for the chapter, and of the carriages of those notables who were invited to a grand ball that evening. The Knights wore their uniforms and decorations, and, with their crimson velvet mantles and plumed helmets, made a very imposing appearance. Several persons were created Knights of the order, and were invested with the proper insignia. Among these were the Duke of Magenta, General Della Rocca, the Duke of Ossano, Marshal Wrangel, and General Prince Radziwill. The chapter was confined to members of the order, and the Queen, the Crown Princess, and other ladies, were present as spectators.

THE RETURN TO BERLIN.—THE PREPARATIONS.

The last act of the Prussian coronation pageant of 1861 has gone off, like those that preceded it, with complete success. A brighter October sun never shone on Berlin than that of Tuesday, the 22nd ult., and probably a larger crowd never assembled in the streets of the Prussian capital than that which that morning collected to welcome the King on his return from Königsberg. The style of decoration was much the same as at Königsberg—fir branches, oak foliage, a few flowers, and a great many flags. The distance from the railway to the palace is about a mile and a half English. Entering at the Frankfort Gate, the procession passed through an alley of trees, with houses irregularly placed on either side—a sort of boulevard, known as the Frankfort Linden; then through Great and Little Frankfort streets and Landsberger-street to the Alexander-square. This was the culminating point of the day's solemnities and magnificence. Thence through the Königs-strasse, and over the Lange bridge, it entered the island on which stands the palace, at the gates of which it at once found itself. During nearly the whole of the day the line of progress was as full as a fair. It was a regular Berlin day—sunny, dry, windy, and dusty; but the latter inconveniences were disregarded by the thousands desirous of a leisurely view of the course before the race began. All the cabs in Berlin and many private carriages were out, and the pedestrians were countless. From the Frankfort terminus a short line of rail had been laid to within a trifling distance of the city gate, which is no gate at all, but a mere shabby barrier of brick and stucco. At the end of this short line a building had been erected, with saloons and dressing-rooms for the Royal party, and here they were to breakfast and take their horses and carriages for the parade entrance. The edifice was very creditably got up, considering for how short a time it was to serve. From it all the way down to the palace, and on the open spaces around the latter, stands of various sizes, draped with red or green stuff, had been erected, and places were to be had upon them at various prices. Along the greater part of the distance the streets were lined on each side with the usual tall poles, painted in alternate lengths of black and white, as boys in England peal sticks; and in some of the streets these poles were not more than 20ft. apart. From them waved flags and streamers; between them were festoons of the eternal fir twigs. As regards the decorations of Berlin on the present occasion, the will may have been good, but in truth it cannot be said that the effect was brilliant. It had been thought necessary to put up many of the vegetable adornments considerably beforehand, so that the flowers and foliage were in most cases faded. The Frankfort Gate had pinnacles put upon it, and had been tricked out for the occasion; but it was a sadly-tawdry business, and really the great arch on the Alexander-square scarcely deserves to be better spoken of. It was announced in the programme as built in the "old classic style," and possibly it was so; but we never saw anything like it before, and would respectfully suggest that, if the style is old, it would be just as well to leave it embalmed in its antiquity, and not revive it.

From Alexander-square, going in the direction of the palace, one passed through the Königs-strasse, which is rather narrow, but where greater pains seemed to have been taken by the inhabitants than in any other part of the line. Then came the bridge. On each side of this several of the large river barges had been brought up,

stem on, so that the single lofty mast which they carry well forward rose at a very short distance, and by the help of these masts and of a few ropes a profusion of flags of all colours, apparently chiefly fancy flags, were hoisted. A double line of tall black and white poles, surmounted with banners, was planted all round the three sides of the palace, and, on leaving the large Schloss Platz, one reached the bridge leading to the Linden, the Palace bridge, as it is called, which was adorned with flags in the same manner as the other bridge, but in still greater abundance.

Berlin is always an early-rising city, but on the 22nd ult. it surpassed itself in that particular, and soon after seven o'clock people were flocking over the last-named bridge to the scene of action. This may be considered to have comprised the whole distance from the railway to the palace, and, doubtless, there was a large assemblage of people along its length; but the best and the favourite place was the Alexander-square, which soon was prodigiously thronged. It is a very large square, in form irregular, and into which several streets debouch. In the centre or therabouts stood the arch—the gate of honour, as the Germans call it. Several stands, two of them on an enormous scale, rising to a great height at the back, and capable of containing a vast number of spectators, had been erected in the square, and yet there was a very large surface vacant for the accommodation of those who did not wish to pay for a sight of the show. In the stands the majority of the spectators were women, while the crowd in the square was chiefly men, although there also venturesome women had gone, and probably many of them afterwards repented having done so, for it was evidently not a pleasant crowd to be in.

THE ROYAL ENTRY.

It was about a quarter past twelve o'clock when the sound of artillery gave notice of their Majesties' entrance into Berlin. Before this time the 112 young ladies selected to do the honours of the "old classic" arch had arrived at their posts, white-robed and rose-bedecked, and marshalled by ten matrons, who, perhaps, could hardly be considered enough to maintain strict discipline in so strong and lively a company: they established themselves within the Gate of Honour, and, although Berlin is not renowned for female beauty, there were certainly some very pretty faces among them—notwithstanding that on such occasions municipal interest is apt to be found a better recommendation than good looks. The sound of the artillery served as a signal for people to get into their places. Royalty cast its shadow before; the mob became more docile, the police less rough, the guilds drew up in line, and prepared to look amiable and loyal. Very brilliant indeed were the gold and silver workers, whose apprentices glistened in complete suits of cloth of those materials—of a fabric, at least, which at small cost perfectly resembles it. Of the other guilds there is nothing particular to be said; they had put on their best coats, and carried models of the objects they habitually produce. Presently came a band of music, which looked like business, and was very refreshing and welcome indeed to people who had waited, as had thousands there present, several hours for the curtain to draw up. Behind the band came a long train of burghers on horseback, some in plain clothes, others in cocked hats and feathers, with drawn swords in their hands. These comprised bodies of Berlin shopkeepers, brewers, butchers, &c. Several bands of music accompanied them.

After the passage of this civilian cavalry there was a slight break in the procession, and then a brazen *fanfare* was heard, and on came the band of a cuirassier regiment of the Guard, the kettle-drummer in front, manfully pounding his sheep's skin, and allowing his charger to hold his own reins. After the band came a half troop of cuirassiers; then three carriages, each with six horses, bringing Court functionaries; then a large number of Generals and staff officers on horseback, another cuirassier band, and then the King arrived at the entrance to the square. The nearest stand of the occupants of which he first came in sight was the largest in the square, and held a very great number of persons. It was full up to the very highest bench, and the women were certainly as two to one. They waved their handkerchiefs most loyally, and the crowd cheered. As the King advanced and became more and more visible from all parts of the square, including the windows in adjacent streets, and the roofs (on which not a few had taken up their station), the cheering increased. Considering the vast number of persons present, it did not appear to be very great. Although the reception may be said to have been cordial, there was little enthusiasm. There was neither the fervour of the southern Europeans, nor the hearty energy of a British cheer. It sounded more like the acknowledgment of the pretty show to which the public had been treated. The Queen and Crown Princess, who rode together in a most magnificent gilt coach with eight superbly-caparisoned horses, appeared to get more hurrache than the King, who rode alone on his charger. Under the arch his Majesty paused to receive verses and loyal speeches. On emerging he was cheered by the other half of the square, to most of the occupants of which he then first came in sight. He was followed by the Princes and a long string of mounted Generals and officers. Then came the Queen, followed by three carriages and six, with the ladies of the Court, all in white. More officers on horseback, more cuirassiers, and then the Court part of the procession was over, and the guilds began to pass, with banners, music, and the emblems of their respective trades and crafts. But this civilian procession, which was to last a very long time, for many thousands composed it, was apparently not thought worth waiting for by the spectators, who began to throng through the streets right and left, seeking by roundabout ways to reach the vicinity of the palace in time to witness the appearance of Royalty on the balconies on which it was announced that it would show itself. The vicinity of the Schloss was soon curious to behold. There is a great deal of open space about it, and soon this was swarming with human beings. It seemed as if all Berlin had gathered to the island formed by the Spree. The palace roof was black with spectators, the tribunes were crowded, the trees were full of boys up to the topmost branches. It was a fine day, a whole holiday, a brilliant spectacle, and the town had come out to enjoy it. The cheering with which the King was received when he showed himself at the windows of the palace gave him fair reason to be satisfied with his welcome. The whole afternoon music had been incessant in the quarter of the town near the palace. The streets of Berlin were not less thronged at night than they had been all day, for there were illuminations on a grand scale, gas fountains, and electric lights, and Bengal fires and fire-works unlimited.

This ended the pageant for the public, but during several days subsequently Berlin was the scene of a round of festivities in Court circles. There were dinners, receptions, and balls at the palace; entertainments by the Royal Princes and by the foreign Ambassadors, among whom the Duke of Magenta shone conspicuously for the magnificence he everywhere displayed. His State carriage alone was a marvel in its way, and attracted a great deal of admiration. Its body is blue, on a red framework, but so lavishly silvered over that body and frame are quite overshadowed by it. The seat of the driver is all silver, and also the monkey-board behind and the steps on either side. The wheel-boxes, lamp-boxes, &c., are all of silver, and the decorations and heraldry are all of silver or framed-in by silver. The seats inside are upholstered voluptuously, covered with silvery moire antique, and surrounded by unblemished plate-glass. The doors are splendidly painted with the heraldic emblem in ermine of the owner—three red lions on a ground of silver, with staves of marshalship crossing each other, and cannons. The rims of the carriage roof repeat these ornaments, and are trimmed with heavy lambrequins of solid silver. The carriage was drawn by six brown horses loaded with red and silver, their heads profusely decorated with thick cordons of the same colours, each led by a melodramatic, pantomimic lackey in white and silver, three attendants behind in gor-

geous attire, two foreriders, two behind, decked and tricked out in white and red with heralding embroidery. The whole was quite a treat for the cheering mob.

Medals have been struck to commemorate the coronation of the King and Queen of Prussia. On one side are the likenesses of their Majesties, with the inscription "William, King—Augusta, Queen, of Prussia;" and on the other the national eagle with the letters "W.R., A.R.," surmounted by crowns, with the inscription "Suum cuique—medal of the coronation, 1861." On the rim, as on ordinary coins, are the words "God with us."

Our third Engraving shows the arrival of the Royal cortége at the palace, and will suitably illustrate the foregoing narrative.

OCCURRENCES IN ITALY.

FATHER PASSAGLIA'S ESCAPE FROM ROME.

Father Passaglia, notwithstanding his civil courage, has at last found Rome too hot to hold him, so that, yielding to the earnest entreaties of his friends and the suggestions of his own cooler judgment, he abandoned his attitude of defiance last night and sought safety in flight, no small ingenuity being required to elude the vigilance of the *sbirri* stationed round his residence. This determination was no doubt quickened by a domiciliary visit which the police paid him yesterday morning, thus proving that if an Englishman's house is his castle in England, an English lady's palazzo is by no means her castle in Rome; for the fact of Father Passaglia living in the Palazzo Spada, under Mrs. Foljambe's matronly aegis, was no impediment to the official requisition of his apartment by a captain of *gens-d'armes* and a detachment of men in plain clothes. Mrs. Foljambe's maid raised such an outcry at the invasion of the premises by this posse comitatus that the learned father inside had no difficulty in guessing the state of affairs, and collecting a few papers, which he was anxious to save from the clutch of the police, he eluded the capture by going round into Prince Spada's part of the palace, where he took refuge in the picture-gallery, and remained unmolested whilst the *sbirri* turned his books and papers topsy-turvy, and filled two large trunks with them to be taken off for the inspection of the director of police. These old papers were carried off with much visible disappointment, although the *gens-d'armes* strove to conceal it under sundry triumphal demonstrations. But the best part of the affair had yet to come. A few hours later an officer of the gendarmerie, in full uniform, and bearing upon his breast some orders that had been granted him by the Pope, the Duchess of Parma, and the King of Naples, presented himself at Mdme. Foljambe's to apologise for the severity with which the law, or perhaps the want of law, was that morning of necessity executed in her domicile. When pardon was at some length demanded and the lady somewhat mollified, the Captain, like a clever diplomatist as he evidently considered himself, added, in his blandest tones:—"His Eminence the Cardinal Vicar wishes to speak as soon as possible to the Abbé Passaglia." But honesty is any day a match for knavery, and the straightforward manners of Mdme. Foljambe carried the day, when, to her honour be it said, she answered like a stout Briton, "The Abbé Passaglia will call on the Cardinal Vicar as soon as a note signed by the Pope and Cardinal Antonelli shall be handed to him guaranteeing that his person will be safe from every violence."

Neither note nor gendarme appeared that day within the precincts of the Strada Palace, although a crowd of policemen hovered about the doorway during the remainder of the day, and the next day the object of that pursuit was safe beyond the northern frontier.

It appears that, although Father Passaglia mainly owed his concealment and subsequent escape from Rome to the protection and aid of an English lady, the British Government was also disposed to use every exertion in his behalf should he have required any more potent official mediation to avert the impending wrath of the Court of Rome. The reverend father was appointed Mr. Severn's secretary, and Mr. Severn received a telegram from Lord Russell instructing him to make every exertion in behalf of Father Passaglia, and authorising him, if such a step were necessary to remove him from persecution, to grant the Father a passport as if to a British subject.

A correspondent, writing from Florence on the 24th, says:—"I have seen the Abbé Passaglia. He arrived here on Monday at two o'clock, and left this morning with Canon Reali for Bologna, whence he goes to Tarin. I had a hurried interview with him, in company with seven or eight persons, laity and ecclesiastics. He was astonished at the enthusiasm of which he was the object upon his route. At Rieti, Narni, Perugia, and Sienna, he recounted, the people cried out to him, 'Viva Passaglia!' 'Viva l'Italia Una!' 'Then,' said he, 'I saluted these brave people, and I said, "Yes, yes, one, but Catholic!"' and they replied, 'Yes, yes, Catholic!' It was like a dialogue between us."

MORE TROUBLE FOR THE POPE.

Monseignor Liverani, from his safe retreat at Florence, has discharged another political missile at the Pontifical Government, in the form of a letter to Cardinal Marini, in which he complains that the dignity and decorum of the Holy See are compromised by the Pope's temporal government and by the passions of his advisers, and blames the members of the Sacred College, who have sworn to shed their blood for the honour of the Holy See, for not offering a remonstrance and risking a rebuff when measures are projected and carried out which cannot fail to bring universal obloquy upon religion and upon the august person of the Supreme Pontiff. He dwells upon this point apropos of the caricatures, satires, and severe newspaper articles published in Florence against the Roman Government and its head for having unjustly condemned to death and beheaded Locatelli for the crime of which Castrucci lately confessed himself guilty, and he compares with this the milder conduct of the Prussian Government, lay, military, and heterodox as it is, in its condemnation of the would-be regicide Becker to imprisonment for twenty years instead of the scaffold.

Mgr. Liverani blames the resolution of the Pontiff to come to no reconciliation with his antagonists, and demonstrates, by several historical antecedents, that other Popes, in their great disputes with the German Emperors, were not animated by such obstinate sentiments. He has also some beautiful and touching remarks on the Italian Exhibition at Florence, to which, important as it is in the aspect of political economy, he attaches a still more vast and sublime political significance—the national conformity of desires and interests, the development of national life and industry, and the undeniable tendency of the Italian race towards social unity. These ecclesiastical assailants are likely to prove some of the most formidable antagonists that have yet ventured to call in question the infallibility of the measures adopted by the Pontifical Government.

DISSENSION IN THE CONCLAVE.

Under the title, "The Roman Curia and the Jesuits," the publishing house of Barbera of Florence has just given to the world two letters addressed to Cardinal Antonelli by Cardinal d'Andrea, explaining the causes why the second found himself obliged to resign his post as Prefect of the Congregation of the Index. It appears that in a theological controversy between the Bishop of Bruges and the Professors of the University of Louvain the Congregation of the Index, on the question being referred to them, decided, by the votes of all the sixteen members present, in favour of the professors. But two Jesuit members refused to attend the deliberations, and the Jesuits are all-powerful at Rome. Contrary to the constitution of the Catholic Church, Pope Pius overruled the decision of the sixteen members present, and gave validity to that of the two absent Jesuits. On an application being made to Cardinal Antonelli on the subject, the answer given was to the effect that everything must give way to the Jesuits. In consequence, Cardinal d'Andrea resigned his post. The letters explaining the reason of his so doing are tanta-

mount to a declaration that the theological censures promulgated in the name of the Congregation of the Index for the guidance of the Catholic world do not embody the convictions of that body, but in some cases opinions which not one of the members present at its deliberations hold.

The publication of the letters has created an immense sensation among the Italian clergy, though Cardinal d'Andrea disclaims having had anything to do with giving them to the world.

HOW BOURBONIST REACTION IN NAPLES IS GOT UP.

The following declaration by an officer engaged in Burges's recent raid into Calabria, which was heralded by such a Bombastus-Furioso flourish of trumpets about the "grand army" and the duty of the Neapolitans to "rally round the standard of their lawful Prince," but which came to so sudden and inglorious a termination before the soldiers of Cialdini, has been emitted before the authorities of Naples, and, with their attestation of authenticity, has been made public:

Finding myself in Rome about a month since, I received an order from General Clary to start for Malta and place myself at the disposal of the Spanish General Burges. In fact, on arriving in the island I found the said General, together with other foreign officers; and not long after a vessel was chartered by the Chancellor of the Neapolitan Consul-General, in which we embarked to the number of twenty, and landed in the Calabrias. On arriving at Pecorone some few persons of the country joined Burges, and, pushing on all of us towards the neighbouring city of Sant' Agatha, we were received by a fire of musketry. As Captain Merenda, Aide-de-Camp of General Clary, had assured us in Rome that General Burges would have a regular expedition under his command, we no sooner saw the deceit that had been practised upon us—that, instead of forming part of a corps-d'armée, it was as much as they could do to make head against the people we met with in Calabria, and that they committed every kind of brigandage in those districts, especially on the Sile—than I resolved quickly on leaving Burges, not deeming it consistent with my honour to become a brigand; and I endeavoured to return, if possible, to Naples, and join my family. Despite the opposition of General Burges, I took leave of him, and, joining a certain Giuseppe Correa, by traversing various mountains I entered the province of Catanzaro, and I endeavoured by the mail road, and always on foot, to make my way to Naples, sleeping during the night on the ground at a distance from any dwelling-place, so as not to awaken suspicion (not being provided with papers), and by day pursuing my road. On the day of my arrest, in fact, I had traversed Rogliano and Cosenza, in which last city, having purchased provisions, I continued my journey, endeavouring, as often as I could, to arrive at some tavern, and so gradually get on to Naples. On arriving, however, about a mile outside Cosenza, I was stopped by the National Guard on service there and asked for my papers; not being able to show any, I was arrested. Such, frankly, is the history of the deceit by which I was led into Calabria; such is the mode in which I have been arrested. I have nothing more to add.

ACHILLE CARACCIOLI.

The authorities attach much importance to this document, as it shows that, after all the disclaimers made in his behalf, Francis Bourbon is concerned in keeping up disturbances in the south of Italy; that one of his trusty Generals is employed in ordering the conspiracy; that the site where all this takes place is Rome; that the grossest deceptions are practised on the poor victims, who are sent mercilessly, like sheep to the shambles; and that in the Calabrias, the country par excellence where a row is always welcome, no support was given to this latest expedition.

IMPORTANT LIFE-BOAT SERVICES.

DURING the last twenty-one months the life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution have providentially been instrumental in rescuing 410 lives from the following shipwrecks on the coasts of the United Kingdom:—Barque Niagara, of Shields, 11; schooner Jane Roper, of Ulverstone, 6; brig Pallus, of Shields, 3; ship Ann Mitchell, of Glasgow, 9; smack John Bull, of Yarmouth, 5; schooner Catherine, of Newry, 4; schooner Ann Mitchell, of Montrose, 1; a barge, of Teignmouth, 2; brig George and James, of London, 8; brig Zephyr, of Whitby, 6; cable Honour, of Cullercoats, 3; schooner Eliza, of North Shields, 7; barque Oberon, of Liverpool, 1; brigantine Nancy, of Teignmouth, 9; smack Wonder, of Teignmouth, 2; brig Scotia, of Sunderland, 6; sloop Taree Brothers, of Goole, 5; sloop Charlotte, of Woodbridge, 5; brig Ann, of Blyth, 8; sloop Hope, of Dublin, 3; schooner Druid, of Aberystwith, 5; barque Vermont, of Halifax, United States, 16; schooner William Keith, of Carnarvon, 2; brig Flying Fish, of Whitby, 6; smack Elizabeth Ann, of Lyme Regis, 3; steam-boat Newhaven, 9; schooner Admiral Hood, of Rochester, 6; schooner Susan and Isabella, of Dundee, 5; schooner Rose, of Lynn, 3; brig Prodromus, of Stockton, 11; brig Eliza, of Middlesborough, 7; brigantine Freia, of Königsberg, 6; brigantine Diana, of Fredrikshavn, 7; brig Gloucester, of South Shields, 7; brig Lovely Nelly, of Seaham, 6; brigantine Nugget, of Bideford, 5; schooner Prospect, of Berwick, 6; sloop Thomas and Jane, of St. Ives, 3; fishing-boat, of Whitburn, 4; brig Arthusa, of Blyth, 8; schooner Dewi Wyn, of Portmadoc, 8; sloop Cymraes, of Beaumaris, 2; schooner William, of Morcambe, 5; smack Gipsy, of Newry, 4; schooner Margaret Ann, of Preston, 4; brig New Draper, of Whitehaven, 8; schooner William, of Liverpool, 5; lugger Nimrod, of Castletown, 3; brig Providence, of Shields, 8; brig Mayflower, of Newcastle, 8; schooner Village Maid, of Fleetwood, 4; barque Guyana, of Glasgow, 19; brig Roman Empress, of Shields, 10; brig San Spiridone, of Galaxide, 2; schooner Vonder du Vouga, of Viana, 8; French brig La Jeune Marie Therese, 6; barque Perseverance, of Scarborough, 5; schooner Elizabeth, of Bridgewater, 4; ship Danube, of Belfast, 17; schooner Hortensia, of Hanover, 4; schooner Oregon, of Stonehaven, 4; brig St. Michel, of Marans, 5; Spanish barque Palmera de Torrevieja, 4; vessel and one of crew, 1; schooner Hurrell, of Penzance, 2; saved vessel and crew, 4; barque Frederick, of London, 1; brig Ann, of Plymouth, 2; saved vessel and crew, 8; barge Peace, of London, 2; schooner Betsy, of Peterhead, 2; saved vessel and crew, 7; making a total of 410 persons saved from death by the life-boats, just the number that would man one of our large line-of-battle ships. For these life-boat and other services, either in saving or attempting to save life on our coast, the society has voted £2133 as rewards. Who that has seen some of these life-boats put off in the very fury of the storm, has watched their successful fight with the elements, and has seen the same boats return laden with human life, that has not felt a deep emotion, such as one cannot but experience when witnessing some heroic and self-denying act! The institution has already paid this year £3420 on various life-boat stations: since 1850 it has expended altogether £50,730 on similar establishments. The demands on the Life-boat Society continue to be very heavy for payments on life-boat establishments which have just been completed, which have compelled the committee to sell £500 from its small funded capital. It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that the public at large will continue to strengthen the hands of its committee in carrying out the great and national objects of the Life-boat Institution; and that many persons may be found from a feeling of gratitude for the services performed by its life-boats to suffer humanity to respond to the institution's appeal. Miss Bartlett Coutts has with her wonted sympathy for the shipwrecked sailor intimated her intention to present to the National Life-boat Institution the cost (about £200) of the new life-boat which that society is about establishing at Plymouth. The residents of that and the neighbouring towns, fully appreciating this noble gift, have subscribed liberally towards the cost of a substantial boathouse and the future maintenance of the station. Miss Coutts had previously defrayed the cost of three life-boats. It is to be hoped that many will be found to follow her example in so noble and sacred a work.

A PROVIDENT "BUTTONS."—A lady residing at Dover wanted a "page," and got a friend in London to look her out one. A young "buttons," having been found, he was supplied at her request with a sovereign to pay his fare and expenses down. On being seen, it was thought he would suit the situation, but next morning he intimated his intention forthwith to return to town, as the place did not come up to his expectations. The lady expressed her surprise, and demurred to being called on to pay for his ride back. "Oh, Mum," said buttons, "I provided for that by taking a return ticket."

YANKEE ESPIONAGE IN LIVERPOOL.—Englishmen are made to feel the consequences of the war in America in a very unexpected manner. It appears there is a regular system of American espionage—how thankful we are that there is no English term for this detestable thing!—established in Liverpool. Merchants who have commercial relations with the South are dogged about in that town in the most determined and persevering manner. Their steps are followed, their houses are watched, their friends and acquaintances are marked out for suspicion. Things have gone so far that persons have been arrested in New York at the moment of their landing there on no other ground than that before leaving England they were in communication with merchants in Liverpool who had fallen under the surveillance of these American Fouches! Mr. W. B. Forwood, twenty-one years of age, son of Mr. T. B. Forwood, merchant, Liverpool, recently proceeded to the United States on business, and was arrested on landing at New York in consequence of information furnished by American spies in Liverpool. After an examination of Mr. Forwood's papers he was liberated, nothing being found to justify his arrest. Mr. Forwood, son, has addressed a letter on the subject to Earl Russell.

HER MAJESTY AND THE PRINCE CONSORT IN EDINBURGH.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONES OF THE NEW POST OFFICE AND THE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM.

We last week briefly recorded the fact that, on the passage of the Court through Edinburgh, on its way from Balmoral to Windsor, her Majesty and the Royal family staid one night in the ancient Palace of Holyrood, and that on Wednesday week the Prince Consort laid the foundation-stones of the new Post Office and of the Scottish Industrial Museum. We now add some further details, though, through an accident, we are unable to publish illustrations of the event which we had intended to give.

The route from Holyrood Palace to the site of the Post Office, immediately opposite the Register House, was lined by the military and several companies of volunteers, as was also the route along the North and South Bridges to the site of the Industrial Museum, at the back of the University. The principal streets were gaily decorated with flags, and, besides the crowds who occupied the two platforms from which a view of the ceremonies could be obtained, the streets were densely thronged with spectators, although thousands could only obtain a view of the carriages forming the procession as they passed along. The Prince Consort left Holyrood Palace at twenty minutes past one, accompanied by Sir George Grey, the Duke of Buccleuch; General Walker, Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Scotland; Colonel Maclean, Major Hyde Page, and Earl Spencer. The Royal cortége was preceded by the Lord Provost, and as the carriages passed along the Regent-road and Waterloo place, accompanied by the band of the Scots Greys, his Royal Highness was received with the utmost enthusiasm by the assembled crowd. The procession having taken their allotted positions round the stone, the Lord Provost of the city presented an address to the Prince Consort, congratulating his Royal Highness on the safe arrival of her Majesty and the Royal family in the city, and thanking him for his presence on that occasion.

The Prince Consort, in reply, congratulated the citizens of Edinburgh on the acquisition of two such important buildings as it was now proposed to erect, and expressed his satisfaction at the increased facilities of communication by letter which had rendered necessary the erection of a new Post Office, and upon the fact that the advantages of speed and regularity in such communications, which were once the exclusive privilege (though to a much less extent even as regarded them) of the higher and middle classes, had now, thanks to the marvellous development of the Post Office system, been brought within reach of the poorest; while another great boon had been conferred upon all classes by the facilities afforded for the safe transmission of money by means of Post Office orders, thus constituting the Post Office, as it were, a universal banking agency, resting on the security of the State, and brought to every man's very door. His Royal Highness also expressed his hope that the recent act of legislation with regard to savings-banks in connection with the Post Office would confer further and most important benefits on the working classes. After congratulating the citizens on the extension to Edinburgh of the advantages already possessed by London and Dublin in the erection of an industrial museum, the Prince Consort concluded by expressing his thanks for an allusion in the address to the part he took in the International Exhibition of 1851, and remarked that the best acknowledgment which the promoters of that undertaking could receive was the practical proof afforded by its repetition in 1862 that they had correctly understood and appreciated the wants and requirements of the day.

The foundation-stone was then laid in the usual form amid loud cheering, and the proceedings terminated with three cheers for the success of the undertaking and three cheers for her Majesty and the Prince Consort. Immediately after the above ceremony the Prince Consort, accompanied as formerly, proceeded to the University, in the large quadrangle of which the Principal, Sir David Brewster, and the members of the Senatus Academicus were in waiting to receive him. Sir David Brewster presented an address from the Senatus to the Prince Consort, which his Royal Highness briefly acknowledged. The company then proceeded to the site of the museum through one of the windows of the University, where the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone was gone through, the whole proceedings only occupying a few minutes. The Prince Consort, immediately after the ceremony, retraced his steps to the front gate of the University, where the State carriage was in waiting, and proceeded amid loud cheers to Holyrood Palace.

GRAND TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION.

The crowning feature of the day's proceedings was, after all, the ovation given to her Majesty and the Royal family on their departure from the city in the evening. Nearly two hours before the time appointed for the starting of the Royal party from Holyrood, large crowds were pouring hurriedly and eagerly into the park, and taking up their position, for the purpose of seeing to advantage the cortége as it passed. The artillery and rifle volunteers mustered in the Royal Exchange about seven o'clock, and were supplied with torches for the great demonstration of the evening. The procession left the Exchange at half past seven, and took up a position in the square before Holyrood and along the entrance to the park, where the torches were lighted. The torches were different from those hitherto used in any similar demonstration in this country. They consisted of small swivel lamps, fastened on long poles, like those used in the firemen's processions in the United States and in British America.

At an early period preparations were made by a few enterprising persons for a grand bonfire on the brow of the hill in the centre of the park, adjoining the Fairy Knowe, and in a short time it was blazing away terrifically, and shooting up a cloud of flame and smoke, the reflection of which was seen for miles around. Further to the westward, on an elevated point on the slope of the hill behind St. Anthony's Chapel, a series of half a dozen smaller fires were lighted up at equal distances, the effect of which was exceedingly fine. These bonfires, gleaming out from the commanding eminences on which they were kindled, shed a brilliant glow upon all the slopes of the hill, and revealed to those on the level ground below the dense masses of spectators who had posted themselves up there in order to have a good view of what was undoubtedly the finest scene that has been witnessed in Edinburgh for many a year. A little after eight o'clock the volunteers were all marshalled in their order in the park, along with the regular troops who kept the ground. They had lighted their torches at the entrance to the park, and now a portion of them marched along the drive to a short distance of its eastern extremity, bearing aloft their torches, which emitted a brilliant flame, and illuminated the drive very effectively. At length the military band at the gates of Holyrood struck up the National Anthem, and the carriage containing the Royal family, preceded and followed by a guard of honour of the Scots Greys, passed at a leisurely pace between the ranks of the military and volunteers along the drive, her Majesty bowing out of the window occasionally to the spectators—who rent the air with their buzzards—and exhibiting in every lineament of her face a strong degree of gratification at this loyal demonstration.

A NEW FRENCH CARDINAL.—The Archbishop of Chambéry, Savoy, has, at the special request of the Emperor Napoleon, had the red hat of a cardinal conferred upon him. The ceremony of investiture took place at Compiegne on Monday, when the Emperor, acting as the ablegate of the Pope, presented the red hat to the new Cardinal. In reply to the address of Monsignore Meglia, the Papal Legate, the Emperor thanked the Pope for having acquiesced in his wish by conferring the cardinal's hat on the worthy Archbishop of Chambéry. He should always congratulate himself on the good feeling which ought to exist between the Holy See and his Government, and that this very necessary accordance could not be better manifested than by the benevolent adoption of suggestions maturely considered. The Emperor concluded by expressing his good wishes for the venerated Head of the Church.

EXCHANGE OF OLD COPPER FOR BRONZE COINS.

The old copper coinage is now in process of rapid disappearance from the channels of public circulation, and its place is as rapidly being supplied by the new coinage of bronze. The offer made by the Mint of 2 per cent premium for collecting and delivering thereat the copper money has had the effect of inducing many persons to embark in the business, and vehicles of every size and description, from the Pickford and Co. wagon down to the costermonger's cart, are, accordingly, continually passing into or out of the Mint gates, laden with copper for the furnace, or bronze coin for the use of the public.

On the arrival of the condemned copper coins at the Mint they are in the first place counted, and then transferred to a defacing-machine. This consists of a strong frame fitted with bearings in which run a pair of finely-corrugated steel rollers, and is surmounted by a capacious hopper. Before being put into this pence are carefully separated from halfpence, because they require a different amount of pressure, and the rolls have to be set at different distances from each other to effect it. Imagining that half a ton weight of "cart-wheel" pennies have been discharged into the hopper, the machine would then be started and a "joggling" apparatus would cause them to fall gradually through the hopper "shoe" and down an inclined plane. Arrived at the base of this, the coins are at once accepted by the rollers, severely pinched, and, as it were, crimped, in their passage, and they speedily fall into an iron box placed to catch them. The mode of dealing with halfpence and farthings is precisely similar, and several tons of either are easily defaced at the Mint in a single day.

The defacement is rendered necessary, we presume, by the fact that the coins have to be sold as old copper, and it is quite necessary to prevent them finding their way into circulation again without passing through the furnace, and being duly incorporated with proper admixtures of tin and zinc. Some hundreds of tons of the old pieces have been already withdrawn from circulation, and the inconvenience arising from their mixture with the bronze coins is thus subsiding. The advantage of having the inferior coinage of so much less weight than in former days is being gradually felt, and by-and-by it will, as we long since ventured to predict, be universally acknowledged.—*Mechanics' Magazine*.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPEECHES.

Mr. E. Onslow, M.P. for Guildford, addressed his constituents last week, and, in reviewing the events of the past Session, expressed his approval of the financial measures of the Government, and his determination to push reforms with all the power of which he is possessed.

Captain Jarvis White Jarvis, M.P. for Harwich, last week delivered to his constituents, by request, an address, in which he further explained his views of the American question, and insisted that England ought to break the blockade "in the interest of the manufacturing industry."

His Grace the Duke of Argyll was entertained at dinner, by his tenantry, at Inverary, on Friday week. In his speech the Duke dwelt on the importance of maintaining a good state of relationship between landlord and tenant—a state of things which, he said, had always obtained in a marked degree in the Scottish highlands. His Grace also touched upon the war in America, which he deeply deplored, but, of course, under the restraint of official position, pronounced no specific opinion on the merits of the dispute between North and South.

The Bishop of Oxford attended a meeting of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and delivered a speech in which he strongly insisted on continued efforts for the spread of Christianity in Africa, and for the extinction of the odious slave traffic on the coasts of that country.

Mr. Adderley, M.P., and other public men have spoken recently on the new educational minute, some being in favour and some against that measure; but, as the minute has been suspended, and the whole question is likely to occupy the attention of Parliament early in the ensuing Session, it is unnecessary to give space to the subject at present.

Mr. Alderman Salomons, M.P., met his constituents at Woolwich on Tuesday evening. In his speech the hon. gentleman strongly condemned the quarrel in America, which he characterised as the most wicked that mankind had ever witnessed. He thought the Northerners were more to blame in the matter than the people of the South.

Lord John Manners, at Leicester, made a strong Tory speech, in which he argued from the state of America—United States, Mexico, &c.—that Republican institutions had broken down, and were evidently unfit for controlling human affairs. Of course Lord John Manners did not mention that almost as great difficulties are now being experienced in working Monarchical as Republican institutions, and that such difficulties prove nothing whatever one way or the other as regards theories of government.

Mr. Dunlop, M.P., has made a speech at Greenock strongly exhibiting the cautious characteristics of his countrymen. He reviewed the past Session, talked of passing events, and anticipated the themes which are likely to occupy attention in the next Session; but abstained with wonderful success from giving expression to opinions which would commit him to any particular line of conduct.

Mr. Rennie, son of the late eminent engineer, Sir John Rennie, has started as a Conservative candidate for the borough of Totnes, and, in a speech delivered there, contends for the restoration of the Church to all her pristine power.

A Liberal demonstration took place at Maldon, the head-quarters of Liberalism in Essex, on Thursday night last, at which several members of Parliament were present. Mr. Western, M.P., in the course of his speech, dwelt upon the importance of the late city of London election, and urged that it was desirable to maintain the present Government in office on the ground of their foreign policy. Mr. Wood, the new member for the City, spoke strongly in favour of increased attention on the part of Liberals to the registration courts. He also warned them against divisions. "Let them not," he said, "be hampered by little questions," as though the abolition of church rates, to which he must have referred, was "a little question." Mr. Charles Buxton indulged in a lively and interesting survey of Europe, with an allusion to the events occurring in America. He protested against the idea that the disruption arose from the free institutions of the Union.

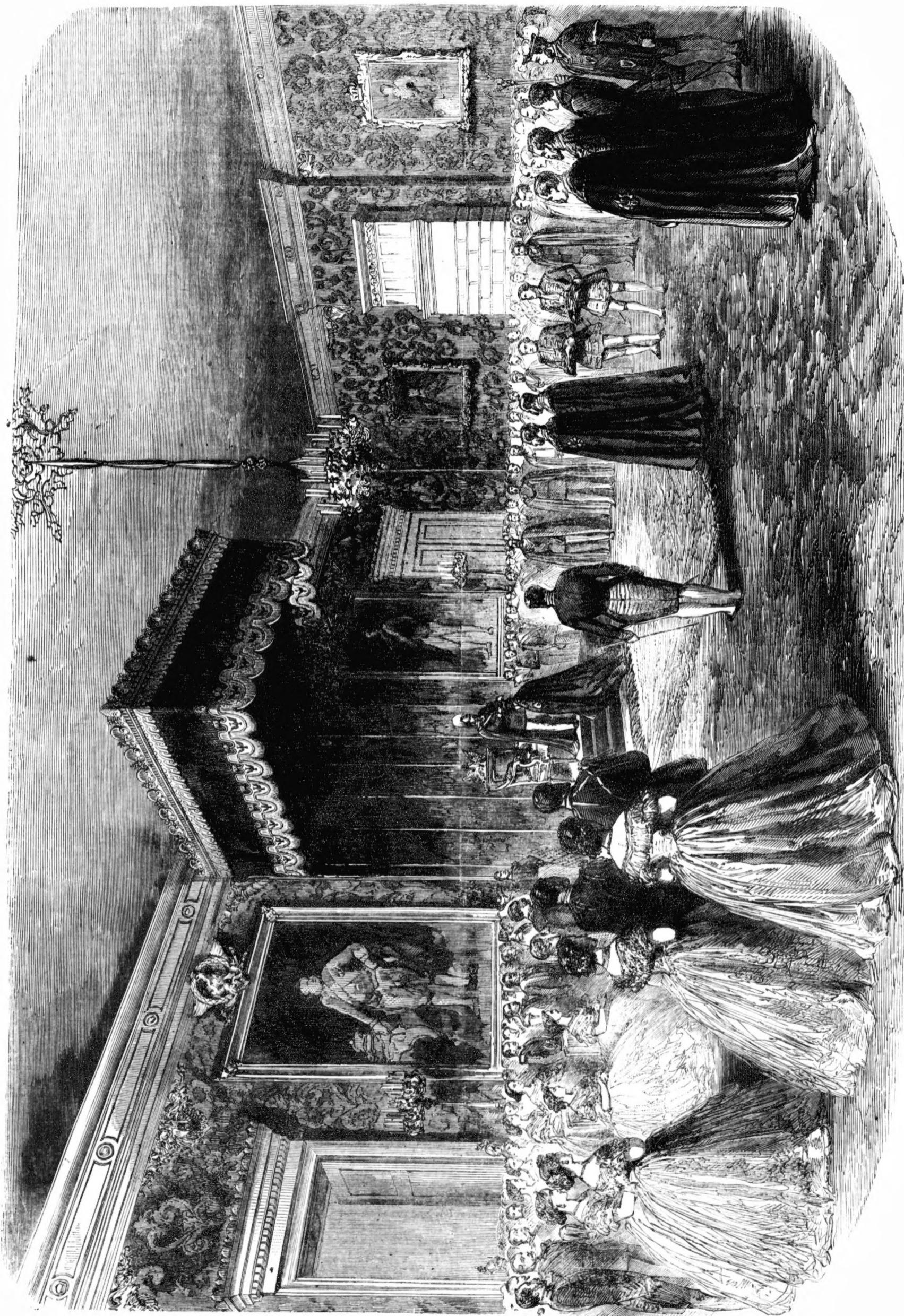
Mr. Monckton Milnes attended a civic banquet at Pontefract on Friday last. Being one of the representatives of a constituency which, although it only numbers some six or seven hundred electors, yet returns two members to Parliament, he not unnaturally eulogised the small-borough system. He illustrated the advantages of that system by a reference to his own case, arguing that it enabled him to exercise independence of judgment and to free himself from party shackles.

Mr. Dilwyn has also had a meeting with his constituents, but there was nothing in the hon. gentleman's address calling for special notice.

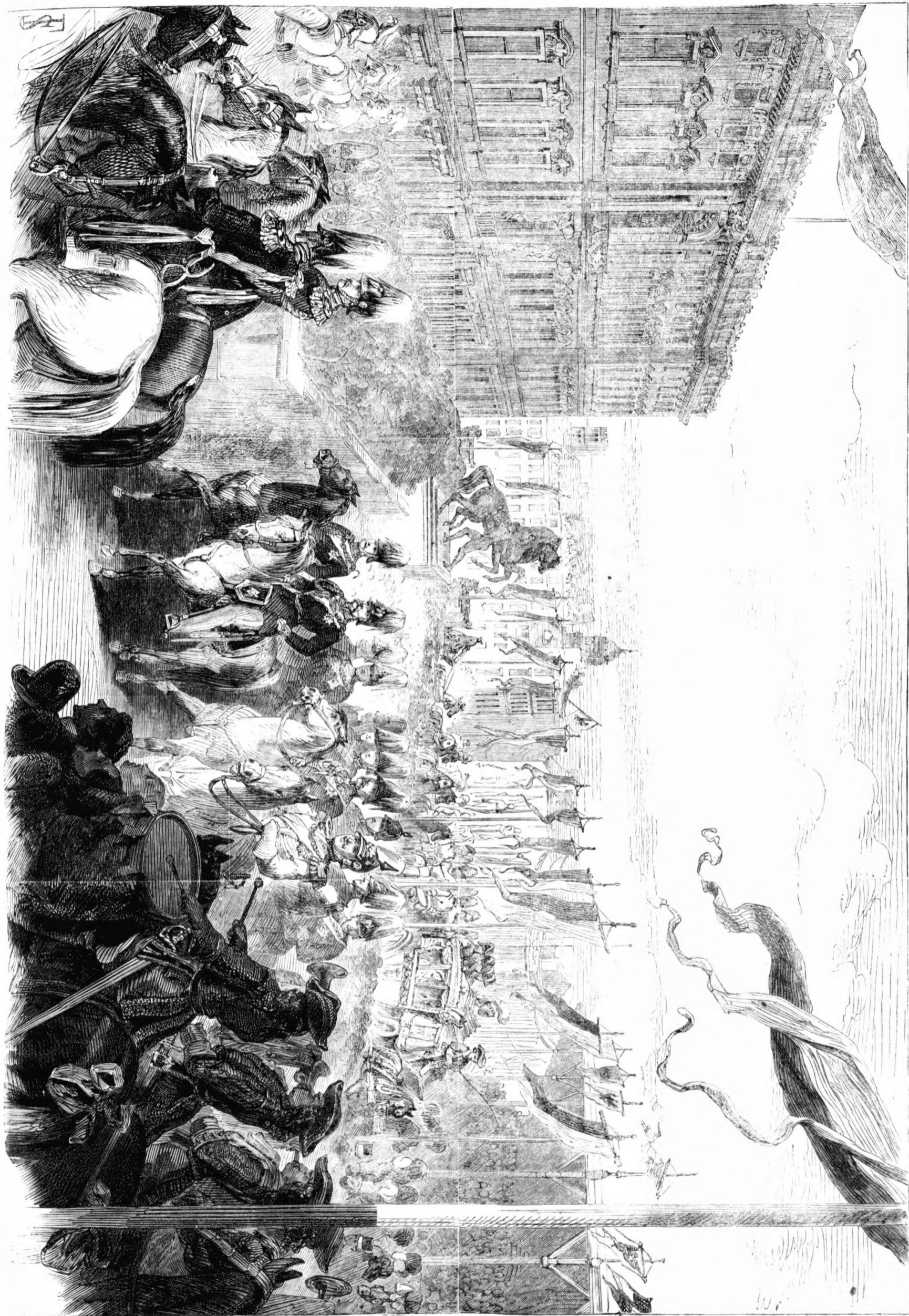
SPAIN AND MONROVIA.—A dispute having arisen between the President of Monrovia and the captain of a Spanish war-vessel, the latter opened fire on a Government vessel called the Quail. The latter was quite unprepared for such an attack, but her captain bravely returned the fire, and, with the aid of the guns from the fort, drove the Spaniard out of the harbour in a damaged state, and with loss to her crew.

NOTHUMANITY.—The following incident is stated to have occurred not long since at a village in Normandy:—"As a gendarme was walking along the banks of a small river he suddenly heard cries of help from a drowning man. He hastened to the spot, and saw the man struggling in the water. Without a moment's hesitation he threw off part of his uniform, plunged into the river, seized the man, and brought him to land in a state of insensibility. Proper restoratives having been applied, the man came to himself, and earnestly inquired the name of his deliverer. 'No matter about my name,' coldly replied the gendarme; 'but you must give me yours, and your address too.' 'But I really must know who you are, and I trust you will come to see me.' 'Oh, as to my name, you will find that at the bottom of the procs-verbal.' 'I really do not think any such formality requisite; I shall always be ready to own my obligation to you, and these good people are all witnesses of your noble action.' 'What noble action?' asked the gendarme. 'Why, your risking your own life to save mine.' 'I did nothing of the kind; I saw you in the water in a forbidden part of the river, and I jumped in to arrest you, not to save you from drowning, and must now draw up a procs-verbal of the fact, and summon you before the juge de paix.' All persuasion was useless, the procs-verbal was drawn up, and in due course the offender appeared before the juge de paix, when it was satisfactorily proved that the accused had fallen into the river while watering a horse, and had thus narrowly escaped drowning."

A NEW STYLE OF VISITING CARD.—A new sort of visiting-card has just been introduced in Paris by a gentleman of sporting celebrity which seems likely to be extensively adopted by the higher circles of the fashionable world. The card simply bears a photograph of the owner's country seat, with the addition of any name or inscription whatever. For instance, a card with a view of Dampierre announces the Duke de Luynes; Dangu, Count de Lagrange; Vézénoire, the Marquis de Calvière; Dâvivencourt, Count de la Myre; Légrange, Count du Châtel; Chaumont, Viscount Walsh; Pinon, Count de Courvel, &c.



THE KING OF PRUSSIA'S CORONATION.—GRAND CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE BLACK EAGLE.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. LALLEMAND.)



GRAND ENTRY OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA INTO BERLIN. (FROM A SKETCH BY A. KURTZIMER.)

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1861.

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES.

WHEN the volunteer rifle corps were in progress of establishment the commonest cry against them was that they were proposed in order to meet an imaginary enemy. "The bugbear of invasion" was a favourite phrase in the mouths of the opponents of our riflemen; and their pluck, their earnest desire to be doing something worthy of commendation beyond the mere duties of every-day life and earning money, was represented as more likely to provoke mischief than to lead to any beneficial results in the case of need.

The suburban district of Notting-hill has set an example to the metropolis in the establishment of a corps of volunteers against whom none of the before-mentioned objections can apply. The enemy whom they are taught to confront and to subdue is one which every one of us has with his own eyes beheld destroying English property to the value of thousands at a single sortie, reducing English homes to desolate heaps of ashes, and not unfrequently subjecting the inmates to the most cruel and terrible of deaths. Notting-hill has of late years suffered much by this invader, as many a hoarding, outside blackened walls and charred rafters, has told; but in London itself the power of fire has still greater scope, and can inflict far greater injury than in any suburb, however respectable. But Notting-hill has established the first Volunteer Fire Brigade. It is scarcely credible that in a city like London, so careful of property, so far in advance of every other nation on the globe in the deep respect for the sanctity of human life, there should exist no national, no municipal, establishment for the extinction of fire. It is true, we have what are called "parochial" fire-engines, but these are so notoriously inefficient that they are seldom heard of except in cases where their services are either useless or undesirable. The London Fire Brigade, the tact and courage of individuals of whose body has often, but in vain, tempted journalists to advocate for them similar honorary rewards to those bestowed on the brave of our soldiers and seamen, is entirely supported by voluntary contributions. But these contributions are chiefly, if not wholly, supplied by the fire insurance offices. What is most notable is that it is a moot question whether it would not be to the interest of these offices to discontinue the employment of the brigade, for, say some, the greater the danger of fire, the more inducement is there to insure. This is proved by the fact of a great fire being frequently an advantage even to the offices who primarily suffer by it. The payment of the insurance proves their solvency and increases their custom. Indeed, several offices, acting upon the views of their own directors, refuse to contribute to the brigade.

Here, then, is a positive danger brought home to our own doors. It is, as the Latin proverb tells us, one's own business when a neighbour's house is on fire. Our only chance is in a body whose very existence depends upon certain persons taking one side of a doubtful argument. Ought such a state of things to last?

It is proposed—nay, more, it is actually in progress—to remedy this state of things, as all such evils should be remedied, by sheer national energy, industry, and pluck. In the United States of America every citizen must of necessity enlist either in the militia or in a fire brigade. The firemen of New York, volunteers in so far as they are unpaid, are the pride and boast of the city. At home, our first metropolitan volunteer brigade has already earned and received the hearty congratulations and thanks of the district in which it has been established.

In great cities, especially, a great misery of ordinary respectable life is its intense monotony and lack of incident. It sounds very well to talk of "morbid craving for excitement;" but the sneer displays only a counterfeit profundity. There is a morbid craving, just as the sense of starvation or suffocation may be so termed, inasmuch as that which is required for health is absent. The mind, like the air and the waters, may become polluted by stagnation. Every one who has ever rescued a life, or successfully defended the weak against the strong, knows the pleasant exaltation of spirit, the healthy increase of vital enjoyment, the salutary self-confidence, which follows the act, and seems to give a new and permanent pleasure to existence.

We are certain that the establishment of volunteer bodies of firemen needs only local assistance during their formation to be attended with success. The duties will scarcely require such tedious or constant preliminary drill as those of our riflemen. They afford opportunities for courage, perseverance, and manly endurance, and for the display, moreover, of all these noblest of our national qualities, in good, useful service to our neighbours in their direst distress and danger.

Mr. COBDEN, M.P., is still troubled by the bronchial affection from which he suffered last winter, and contemplates the possibility of having to spend some of the winter months in a warmer climate.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE KING AND QUEEN OF PRUSSIA, with the Prince and Princess Royal, will visit London next summer on the occasion of the opening of the Great Exhibition.

A BEAUTIFUL WHITE MARBLE STATUE OF THE LATE SIR WILLIAM PEEL, R.N., has just been placed in the chancel of St. Paul's Church, Bedford.

THE QUEEN has offered to confer the dignity of knighthood upon Mr. Fairbairn, the President of the British Association, in consideration of the eminent services he has rendered to science. Mr. Fairbairn has declined the honour.

IT IS ANNOUNCED that the Sultan will visit Paris in the spring, and it is highly probable that he will afterwards come to London.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT has recognised the kingdom of Italy.

THE VICEROY OF EGYPT is expected at Vienna next month, whence, it is said, he will proceed to Paris and London.

THE NIZAM objects to receive the Order of the Star of India, because his religious feelings will not allow him to wear either an effigy or a velvet robe.

THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE is seriously indisposed at Bowood in consequence of an accident.

HER MAJESTY has signified her intention of conferring the honour of the third class of the Order of the Bath on Mr. Isaac Watts, the chief constructor of the Navy.

THE DUKE OF SOMERSET has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Devonshire, and Lord Lieutenant to the like office in Monmouthshire.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has been presented by the people of Berlin with a gun-boat, which he has called by the name of the city whose offering it is.

THE EARL OF ABERDEEN (better known as Lord Haddo) has devoted a considerable portion of his London residence to the industrial education of sixty poor boys, who are also to be fed and clothed by his Lordship.

CHINA has already been entered by nearly one hundred Protestant missionaries.

M. GYICZY, President of the Hungarian Chamber of Deputies, has had for several weeks a detachment of forty cuirassiers quartered on his estate at Kisigmund for the collection of duties.

THE REOPENING OF LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL, after its complete restoration, from designs by Mr. G. C. Scott, R.A., took place last week.

MR. W. J. FOX, M.P. for Oldham, is suffering from feeble health, especially an affection of the eyes, and has intimated that, in the event of a dissolution of Parliament, he would certainly not stand again.

SEASON-TICKETS TO THE EXHIBITION of 1862 will be uniformly charged to ladies and gentlemen at three guineas each.

MR. S. R. GRAVES, Mayor of Liverpool, was taken ill on Sunday morning in church. He rose in order to leave the building, but as he was passing the communion-table he fell. He was removed to the Townhall, where he soon recovered sufficiently to drive home. On Monday he was apparently quite restored. The Mayor's official duties have latterly been rather onerous.

GLASGOW is going to renew its fine-arts exhibition, and with every probability of success. Paisley, also, this year is about to make an attempt at an exhibition of its own.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has just given crosses of the Legion of Honour to M. Bunsen and Mr. Kirchhoff for their valuable spectrum discoveries. M. Bunsen, already a Chevalier, has been made an officer of the order, and M. Kirchhoff has been made a Chevalier.

CAPTAIN JOLLIFFE, one of the members for Wells, is now lying dangerously ill, and with little hope of his recovery. It is thought that the wound which the gallant Captain received in the Crimean War undermined his health, the effects of which he still labours under.

THE ANNIVERSARY BANQUET of the officers who were in the charge at Balaklava took place at the London Tavern on Friday evening last. Thirty-eight noblemen and gentlemen were present. Colonel Hodge, C.B., presided; and was supported by Lord Lucan, the Earl of Cardigan, Sir James Scarlett, K.C.B., &c.

FREDERICK LATTON, said to be an officer in the Army, was last week fined £5 and costs for kissing a lady in a first-class carriage on the railway between Gloucester and Bristol.

MR. RUSSELL, the *Times* correspondent in America, having gone out shooting on a Sunday, near a town in the west, an information was laid against him by a spiteful Yankee for desecrating the Sabbath, and he was fined thirty dollars.

A WELL-KNOWN MERCHANT in GLASGOW, who has been speculating largely in cotton of late, is said to have netted during the last few months a sum not less than £50,000. He has now retired from the field, leaving it to others to try their hand.

EARL RUSSELL inaugurated a drinking-fountain on Tower-hill on Monday. The noble Lord has been the main contributor to the expense of erecting the fountain.

A WIDOW LADY NAMED BONNEAU, residing at St. Martory, near Toulouse, has just become a great-great-grandmother, her great-granddaughter having given birth to a son. The old lady is now in her ninety-fifth year.

THE WOULD-BE ASSASSIN OF THE QUEEN OF GREECE, Dusios, has made an unsuccessful attempt to break out of prison. The event has led to further arrests.

THE TOBACCO produced this season in the north of France is of greatly superior quality to that of last year, and the cutting of it has been effected under the most favourable circumstances.

AT MOORBURG ON THE ELBE a sad accident occurred a few days back; fourteen persons proceeded to cross the river in an old boat, but before they had gone far water entered, the boat was swamped, and seven were drowned.

A MAN NAMED LEVI HOLLAND, twenty-six years of age, committed suicide in a fearful way, on Monday, at the Silkstone Colliery, near Wharncliffe. He had been drinking, quarrelled with his wife, and, rushing out in a fit of frenzy, jumped down a pit 170 yards deep, and was literally dashed to pieces.

THE MADRID JOURNALS announce that General Miramon, ex-President of the Republic of Mexico, had left that capital for Cadiz, to embark for his own country.

THE FRENCH PAPERS say that a German pamphlet has just been published at Munich, entitled "Secret Conversation of King William I. at Compiegne, on the 7th of October, 1861," communicated according to a stenographic report by the Sonnambulist Gabriele."

THE ACCOUNTS FROM WESTERN CANADA as to the return yield this year to the labours of the husbandman are very encouraging. From a variety of points on Lake Ontario, and the peninsula between Lake Erie and Georgian Bay, the reports represent the crop as fully an average.

PRINCE NAPOLEON and PRINCESS CLOTHILDE have been invited on a long visit to Compiegne, with the view of dispelling the rumours of a misunderstanding between the Emperor and the Prince.

CERTAIN PERSONS UNKNOWN recently asked the Prussian Government to sell them 10,000 muskets, for which they offered a good price. On inquiry, the parties were found to be Bourbonist agents, and the Prussian Government refused to accede to the proposal.

ADVICES FROM EGYPT report that the damage done by the late inundation was not so extensive as at first apprehended. The crops were expected to yield about three-fourths of the usual produce.

ON MONDAY, the 7th ult., an English cattle-dealer was robbed at Falkirk Tryst of a pocket-book containing £2525 in drafts and bank-notes. The suspected thieves, a young man and woman, have been arrested at Southampton.

A NEW DAILY PAPER is announced as forthcoming—the *Indépendance Nationale*. It is to be published in London, and is notified as "a daily French journal, political, commercial, and literary."

WHEN THE EMPRESS OF AUSTRIA RECENTLY VISITED ZANTE the Austrian Consul prostrated himself in the dust, asking what might be the gracious Sovereign's commands. The Empress smiled at the Consul, and said, quietly, "My commands are that you get up and dust the knees of your breeches."

THE RECTOR AND CURATE OF A PARISH IN BEDFORDSHIRE have refused to read the burial service over the child of a married couple belonging to the parish because it had not been christened. The parents belonged to the Baptist body.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S NEW BANKRUPTCY ACT is the most popular reading in that city of sanctuary, Boulogne. It is even said that Mr. Merrivale (the local Mudie) has had to provide four hundred copies of that interesting work to meet the demands made upon him.

MR. CHARLES BENJAMIN BLAINE (late a Captain in her Majesty's service) committed suicide last week by leaping from his bedroom window. The unfortunate gentleman had been labouring under insanity for some time.

ACCOUNTS FROM THE PROVINCE OF ALICANTE state that, owing to long-continued drought, the fields are parched up, and the populations are emigrating en masse from inability to obtain water to drink. In Murcia, with the exception of the plains watered by the Segura and its tributaries, the fields are completely sterile, and no sowings can be made.

DEERFOOT ran a four-mile race at Birmingham, on Monday, against Mills, of London, Roberts, of Birmingham, and Richards, of London, for a handsome silver cup. Deerfoot got fifty yards start of Mills, and beat him, having accomplished the four miles in a few seconds over twenty minutes.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW RAILWAY FROM LONDON-BRIDGE TO CHARING-CROSS proceeds with the utmost activity. From the Surrey side of the Suspension-bridge to High-street in the Borough the work of demolition of the houses and other buildings through which the line is to pass is nearly complete.

THE CADETS at the Royal Military Academy, at Woolwich, created a riot last week as an expression of their dissatisfaction with the rations served out to them. Some old Waterloo trophy guns were thrown over into the ditch, swords into the Governor's garden, and some field-pieces, it is said, were loaded with broad-shot, more in bravado, we presume, than for any other purpose.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA, on the occasion of the coronation, has ordered that all the Princes of the Prussian Royal family shall henceforth take the title of "Most Serene."

A MEETING OF NOBLES and GENTLEMEN of the west of Scotland was held at Ayr on Tuesday, when it was resolved to open a subscription for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of the late Earl of Eglington.

AT A RECENT SPECIAL MEETING of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board it was agreed, after a protracted debate, to apply to Parliament for powers to extend the dock works on the Liverpool side of the Mersey.

AT BIRMINGHAM, on Sunday, the annual collection took place in all the churches and chapels for the charitable institutions of the town. The amount realised was little short of £2500.

AN IMPORTANT ADDITION has been made to the collection of ancient marbles in the British Museum by the arrival of a further portion of the results of the excavations undertaken at Cyrene by Lieutenant Porcher and Smith. These gentlemen have now, it is understood, their researches being completed, finally left that place.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA has just paid a visit to Corfu, where the Empress has been residing for some time past, during which he inspected the fortifications, reviewed some of the troops, entertained Sir H. Storks, Sir George Buller, and other officers, who, in commemoration of the event, have named one of the principal fortified outworks the "Francis Joseph."

THE CIVIL AND MILITARY HOUSEHOLD OF THE PRINCE IMPERIAL will, it is said, be constituted in March next, when his Imperial Highness will have completed his sixth year.

COLONEL RANKIN, who was apprehended for enlisting soldiers in Canada for the army of the United States, has undergone an examination, and been committed for trial.

ALEXANDRE DUMAS, dressed in a red shirt, passed through Lyons a few days ago, on his way to Paris.

THE SUM SUBSCRIBED FOR THE GERMAN FLEET up to the present time amounts to 61,560 florins.

MR. NOEL PATON, the painter, will soon publish a volume of poems.

THE CHYSANTHEMUMS IN THE TEMPLE GARDENS are just now in very fine condition, the display being more than usually good, even for these gardens, which have long been famous for the perfection with which this flower is grown in them. A visit to the gardens at present will be well repaid.

ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND SPAIN have, it is said, arrived at a complete understanding in reference to the expedition against Mexico, which, it is expected, will leave at the beginning of November. The Federal Government of America are to be invited to join the expedition in order to obtain redress of injuries inflicted on its subjects.

AN AMERICAN THREE-MASTED SCHOONER has recently appeared in the Mediterranean; she has a large number of blacks on board, and is supposed to be a Confederate privateer.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

To the public the death of Sir James Graham was sudden and quite unexpected; but to members of the House of Commons and habitual attendants in the gallery it was not so entirely unlooked for, for by them it has long been known that Sir James's constitution was breaking up rapidly. It is true that to the last he walked seemingly as firmly and uprightly as ever; and in the only speech of any length which he made last Session there did not appear any marked signs of mental failure; but his voice was very weak, and it was known that the effort distressed him not a little. It was noticed also that he frequently during the Session arose suddenly and left the House as if he had been seized with pain; and then he never stopped late. There was also a sad and melancholy air about him as if he were haunted with a presentiment that he should not live long. Indeed, not from one sign, but from many signs, it had come to be considered in the House that his career was nearly ended. The death of Sir James has made a void in the House which never can be filled, for if ever there was a man *sui generis* it was Sir James. No such a debater ever appeared in the House before him, and I never expect to see a successor. His speeches when he exerted all his powers were like nothing so much as the charge in battle of a regiment of heavy dragoons—that charge, for example, of the Life Guards at Waterloo when they rode down their opponents by sheer weight. Roe buck, in his history of the Whig Ministry, says that Sir James "left his hearers unmoved, and was more apt by his own cold demeanour to repel and offend his audience than by his lucid arrangements and accurate argumentation to convince and lead them;" but to this I cannot subscribe. Sir James, it is true, as Roe buck says, was not an orator. He never affected lofty oratory; and his manner was certainly not impassioned; but still at times he could move the House. And as to convincing, I never knew any speaker more irresistible in argument than Sir James. And he could also move the country as well as the House. Witness, for instance, his famous "Know the reason why" speech in 1848, in which he so ably and ardently defended the free-trade policy of Sir Robert Peel. It will be long ere Englishmen forget the phrase, "He knows the reason why;" and with Roe buck's decision, "that as an administrator Sir James shone without a rival among his Whig associates," all who remember him at the Admiralty and the Home Office will cordially agree. But, alas! he is gone. Never shall we see him again march with sturdy elephantine step into the House—never see him more in his wonted place—that place which so long knew him will know him no more for ever, and never see him slowly uncoil himself and rise to take part in the debate. Few people are missed from the House of Commons, but Sir James really will be missed. In short, his death is an abstraction of a solid mass of intellect.

The Session of 1860 was generally thought to be the heaviest Session of modern days. The House, it was said, had sat more hours and talked more than it had ever done before. And "Hansard's Debates," I find, confirms the opinion; for whereas, in 1859—which was certainly not below the average—the debates extend only to four volumes, containing in all 3230 pages, in 1860 they extend to five volumes, containing 5368 pages. The pages are printed in columns, and the type is about the size of that in which the debates in the *Times* are printed. The last volume for 1861 is not yet delivered, but it is clear from what we have got that there was much less talk in 1861 than there was in 1860. If the debates of 1860 were to be printed in the same type as the 8vo edition of "Macaulay's History of England," they would make about fifty volumes.

I am not surprised to hear that Mr. Horsfall will retire from the representation of Liverpool at the next dissolution. Mr. Horsfall is scarcely fitted for such a laborious post. Every member for Liverpool finds it hard work to satisfy the requirements of that immense commercial constituency; but Mr. Horsfall has been so zealous that he has made work. His zeal has eaten him up. It is wise of him to retire in time. Mr. Tobin, a resident merchant, it is said, is to be put forward as Mr. Horsfall's successor. The *Albion*, however, asserts that Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald, Lord Malmesbury's Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, is to be proposed. But let Mr. Fitzgerald beware. The work of the Foreign Office was a burden, but that is nothing to the work of a member for Liverpool. Mr. F. has a snug place at Horsham. Let him think of the Lord Mayor's fate and pause.

Lord Normanby charges Farini, one of Gladstone's authorities, with having parloined the Duke of Modena's linen. Farini threatens the noble Marquis with an action for libel, to which the noble Marquis replies "Come on!" which I do not think Farini will venture to do from all I hear—not that I think, however, that Farini did steal the linen. The charge against the Duke of Modena is, "You

ruled tyrannically, unjustly, kept prisoners in dungeons untried." *Le tu quoque* is "You stole my linen." Martinus Scriblerus gives not a finer example of the art of sinking than this.

Speaking of the Foreign Office reminds me that I went over this notable building the other day. But I saw no Foreign Ministers there nor sleek officials for they have flitted—gone over to Whitehall-gardens; and the old building is all daubed with huge figures—has been disposed of in lots by this time, and will in a few weeks be razed to the ground to make room for Mr. Scott's palladian structure. It is a queer old place this old Foreign Office. Not one house, but I should suppose a congeries of houses which have been taken into use as the Foreign Department business increased; and in all my life I never saw such a labyrinth of rooms, closets, dark narrow passages, and staircases. I spent half an hour in the building, but did not, I suspect, see half of it. Indeed, I got so bewildered and "in wandering mazes lost," that I was obliged to seek a conductor to show me my way out. It is a strange place; but it struck me that it was not a bad type of our foreign policy—now dark, secret, and tortuous; now expanding into something great and generous, and anon lazy and complicated, and, as a whole, a strange bungle. It was a queer sight to see this notable building, in which only yesterday noble Foreign Secretaries had audience with Foreign Ministers, and the affairs of nations were settled, in the hands of hooked-nosed, greasy Israelites, questionable-looking dealers in marine stores, &c., all dirty, and every second man with a long pipe in his mouth. When I passed the large room on the ground floor the auctioneer was just going to begin, but I did not stop to buy. If these wrecks and timbers, or those grinning faces on the drawing-room ceiling, could be made to speak now, like Roger Bacon's head, one might have invested a few score pounds with advantage; but they are all dumb. "Is the old system to be razed?" I said to a high functionary as I passed down the street, "with the old building?" "I fear not," said he, with a shrug. "It is not so easy to do that as it is to pull down an old house—would that it were!"

Before Sir James Graham is buried Mr. E. Potter is up for Carlisle. He is president of the Chamber of Commerce at Manchester. I suppose he is one of the notable firm of Potter, Norris, and Co. One of these Potters, Sir John Potter, was elected in 1857 member for Manchester when Bright and Gibson were ejected. The House was fatal to Sir John, for he died in 1858. The Potters are, I believe, Unitarian Dissenters. Mr. Morrison, of the firm of Morrison, Dillon, and Co., has, I hear, a good chance for Plymouth. The fight at Bickenhead between Laird the shipbuilder and Brassey the contractor is to be a severe one, but Laird is most in favour with the speculators. Laird calls himself a Conservative; Brassey is a Liberal; but the fight will have little to do with party politics. Laird is building an iron frigate for the Government, and Government contractors cannot sit in the House. How will he get over this difficulty?

My dear, everybody's good friend, Poet Close, is again in the field. People may have supposed that the cancelling of his pension and the gratuity of £100 charity money would have stopped his mouth, but this eloquent assistance seems to have stirred and warmed him into a fresh access of emasculated and slobbering dirt-throwing. There is an old Irish proverb, "Beggars can't bear heat," which, being translated, means that when snobs become warm and happy they are apt to grow insolent; and such is the effect which Lord Palmerston's gratuity has had on the "Kirkby Stephen poet." Mr. Close not only has served legal notice of an action for libel on our contemporary the *Critic*, but he has published a pamphlet called "Poet Close and his Pension," which is filled with the most violent abuse of all those who have dared to question his claims. Mr. Stirling and Mr. Hollingshead, the editors of the *Critic*, *Punch*, and the *Saturday Review*, and your very humble contributor, are the persons most bitterly animadverted upon. Portraits of most of us figure in a frontispiece, and my friends will at once readily recognise me under the guise of a bearded, eyeglass-wearing, Cruikshankian swell. I am also favoured in Mr. Close's poetic effusions with the following notice:—

The "Lounger" in the *Illustrated Times*
Found room among the news of horrid crimes.
An E—Y—, he daid to puff and splutter,
With language vile no honest man would utter;
He, too, must vent his bile—mean, dirty fellow—
No wonder he's so thin, all bone, and yellow;
But he was paid, for London fools must eat,
And gold thus won—oh, it was very sweet!
Now our reward this creature shall have,
Ere such sad carrion slips in the grave.
Rejoice, ye London Cits, we wish ye joy,
That ye have such nice men in your employ;
Our paupers here, who sweep our dirty street,
Would scorn such London low-bred scum to meet.
'Tis they are vile "Impostors," not such men
As Poet Close, who boldly wields his pen,
And dogs each villain—zany, ape, or ass,
And dizzy fools, with impudence of brass.

Even less reticent is the poet when he descends to prose:—

Poor E—Y—, who manufactures his hotch-potch for the "Lounger" in the *Illustrated Times*, and who eased his mind by calling Mr. Close an "Impostor" every week, when he heard of this, he drank brandy all night, and so set the Thames on fire, but only burnt his nightcap and old slippers by mistake; and in his mad fit shaved off moustache, imperial, whisker, all that, then fell asleep, and when he awoke next day swore some one had stolen him, and put a fool in his bed! . . . Allow us to ask Mr. Edmund Yates how he would have liked to be called an "Impostor," and thus blackballed in every newspaper in the kingdom! Also that clever man, John Holl—*goshed* ("Hogshed" Mr. Close truly styles him), who seems to have gone raving mad about poor Mr. Close. These two precious creatures ought and well deserve a good horsewhipping the whole length of Fleet-street. But their shameful abuse will rebound on their own heads, as all sensible men will only regard them with contempt. . . .

It need scarcely be said that I notice poor dear Mr. Close's maniacal ravings "more in sorrow than in anger." Smeer outrageous vanity has run away with a doubtless honest tradesman, and led him to make an egregious idiot of himself, when he ought to have been a churchwarden.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

In your last week's impression I chronicled the fact of M. Fechter's entrance in "Othello," and gave a general notice of his view of the character. I now purpose to examine his performance at greater length; and at the commencement let me say that a more thoroughly intellectual rendering, one showing more study and reverence, more capability for appreciating the beauties of the author, it is impossible to conceive. M. Fechter has given a new *acting* version of "Othello" to the stage. His view of the character had been conceived before, by Hazlitt, I think, who discriminates between the differences in jealousy shown by Leontes and Othello, both jealous men, and shows how prone is the first, how loath the last, to be convinced; but no actor has ever attempted, so far as I know, to show us this before. With M. Fechter's predecessors Othello has been a mad, revengeful fiend, whose hot blood has prompted him to listen to the earliest whispers of the tempter; but M. Fechter shows him to us so idolising his wife, so wrapped up in their mutual loves, that he playfully laughs off the first insinuation of Iago; and it is not until Desdemona's first depiction of her father is pointed out to him that he has the smallest suspicion of her childish, affectionate simplicity. Then the poison takes effect: he "dotes yet doubts, suspects yet fondly loves," *i.e.* the affectionate, trusting side of his nature is shown until the very last; he is a gentleman, and he shrinks from the half-spoken hint to set Emilia on to spy over his wife's actions with the horror consequent upon a base thought; and when Desdemona equivocates that the Turkurkief is not lost, he turns to her with a burst of affection which is changed to deeper misery when he finds she cannot make good her assertion. M. Fechter's shortcomings in the part are physical, not intellectual. He does not give us the rough, hardy soldier, the child of war and camps; and in the first two acts he is

too flippant, and too little *au grand sérieux*. The address to the senate is rendered far too conversationally. The man is not eloquent by nature, "rude is he in speech," there are no fine forensic touches, we readily allow, nor should he speak like a special pleader; still his position and his love give him a grand, rough eloquence, a power of heart-appeal entirely his own, which we do not find in M. Fechter's somewhat tame and easy-flowing rendering.

That the actor is a great man there can be no doubt; not merely in his own special readings, but throughout the play there are evidences of his taste and judgment. By him has Mr. Ryder been taught to invest Iago with a devilish Mephistophelian bonhomie hitherto unattempted; by him has the business of the stage, the setting of the scenes, the disposition of the various characters, been altered in a manner evidencing the highest care and appreciation. Go and see him, and you will have a high intellectual treat; you will not find perfection, but you will bring away with you reminiscences of a performance which will bear reflection, and will leave you imbued with a very high reverence for the master-spirit.

So much for new readings and new lights. Now those who reverence "tradition" will find their heart's gratification at DRURY LANE, where Mr. G. V. Brooke, after an eight years' absence from England, is playing the same character. Ten years ago Mr. Brooke appeared, under Mr. Davidson's management at the Olympic, as Othello, and took the town by storm. He had a fine person, a most splendid voice capable of the finest modulation, and a good notion of the character. He has returned with his fine person alone left to him; his voice is thick and husky, and his conception of character is traditional and conventional in the highest degree. Ex. g., he plays Othello in the old green and spangled gaberdine reaching to his heels, in an ill-fitting black wig, and on his hands a pair of brown cotton gloves. He raves, he rants, he bellows; but he does not *act* an atom. Of the manner in which Mr. Brooke was supported it is best to say as little as possible. No barn could show worse actors, no "gaff" worse scenery. Mr. E. T. Smith is a man of talent and liberality, but he reserves the exercise of both for the production of his pantomime. He has Mr. Beverley's resources at his command; he is a man of the age, and is thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the public. Why he should so completely set them at defiance is beyond my comprehension.

Mr. Robson, after a very serious illness, which I trust will prove a warning to him to give up every species of over-excitement, has reappeared at the OLYMPIC in the very worst farce to which Mr. John Oxenford ever affixed his name as author. The old business of mistaken identity is the basis of the plot, but the out-working is clumsy and the dialogue utterly devoid of wit. Mr. Robson experienced a hearty reception which, naturally enough, completely unmanned him; indeed, when, at the close of the applause, one enthusiastic individual called out "God bless you!" the convalescent was fairly moved to tears. He acted the character of an overworked, memoryless, stuttering lawyer's drudge with marvellous humour and accuracy, and, greatest achievement of all, he brought the curtain down in triumph on a most worthless production.

On Saturday night last Mr. Charles Mathews took his benefit at the HAYMARKET, and publicly announced, what has been for some time known in theatrical society, that he was about to quit the stage, and, in conjunction with his wife, to give an entertainment.

THE LATE RICHARD OASTLER.—On Monday night a meeting was held in Leeds to assist the effort now being made to raise a memorial to commemorate the services of the late Mr. Oastler in advocating the Ten Hours Bill. The Mayor presided. The following resolutions were adopted:—"That the Ten Hours Bill in its operation has proved to be of immense advantage to the factory population, not only in a physical point of view, but also in giving them the opportunity of mental improvement, thereby elevating their social and moral position." "That the passing of the bill into law was in great measure attributable to the talents, energy, and unwavering fidelity which the late Richard Oastler brought to bear on the advocacy of the claims of the factory-workers, and this meeting shows its sense of gratitude for these philanthropic labours by associating with the general committee in raising subscriptions for the erection of the contemplated monument to his memory."

THE UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE.—The annual meetings of the United Kingdom Alliance for the suppression of intemperance was held at Manchester on Thursday week. The attendance was very large and influential, there being, it is said, no fewer than 300 clergymen present. The report explained that the committee, acting upon the advice of Lord Brougham and other influential friends, had postponed the introduction of the Permissive Bill into the House of Commons. The principal speakers at the demonstration in the Free-trade Hall were Sir John Forster, Rev. T. G. Fox, of Durham, Mr. H. Coshman, and Mr. W. Lawson, M.P. These gentlemen energetically argued in favour of such a change in the law as would bring the liquor traffic under popular control.

NEW VOLUNTEER CORPS.—A new company, in connection with the 1st Middlesex Engineer Volunteers, of which Sir J. Burgoyne, R.E., K.C.B., is Colonel, is now forming in Holborn and Bloomsbury. The uniform is scarlet, with blue facings. A corps bearing the title of the Old Soldier Volunteers is also in course of formation in the metropolis. The regiment will consist of persons who have served in the Army.

THE NEW BLACKFRIARS BRIDGE.—The levels of the new bridge over the Thames at Blackfriars, in the stead of the present unsightly and dilapidated structure, have been taken. The intended structure will be 67. 10in. lower in the centre, and 2ft. 9in. lower at the side arches, than the present bridge, and the incline will therefore be easy. The width of the bridge will be 80ft. within the parapets, being nearly double that of the present bridge. In construction it will be similar to that of Westminster, but only three spans to cross the river.

FATAL OCCURRENCE AT THE ADELPHI THEATRE.—A melancholy accident took place at the door of the gallery of the Adelphi Theatre on Monday night. A respectable woman had come, with her sister, to witness the performance of the "Colleen Bawn," and had taken her position, before the doors were opened, close to the gallery door. A considerable crowd had collected, as usual, but there was no pushing nor disorder. The excitement, however, was too much for the poor woman, who fell forward in a fainting condition. Room was at once made by the crowd for her removal, and she was conveyed to the hospital, but it was found she was dead.

FATHER LACORDAIRE.—L'Ère Lacordaire is sinking day by day. His malady defies the efforts of the French physicians, and has during the past week made a progress alarming to his friends. The disease has taken a nervous form, and the patient's sense of touch has become so fine as to be almost torture to him. He has been obliged to throw aside on that account his coarse Dominican robes, and sackcloth shirt, which it appears he has worn for several years. But, in spite of all his bodily suffering, Lacordaire's intellect seems to increase rather than decrease in brightness. He speaks much on the politics of the day; or, rather, improvises di-courses when conversing with men of intelligence that would electrify an audience, and that far surpass, because more natural and illuminated by an abnormal brilliancy of thought, everything that he has ever said in public.

NEW FRENCH EXHIBITION.—An exhibition is appointed in France for 1865, in which every attempt will be made to outstrip all we may have done previous to that time. Sir Joseph Paxton, it is said, has been retained by the Imperial Government, and a crystal edifice of unheard-of proportions, will rise on an elevated site near St. Cloud. A dome 500ft. high, and of open capacious enough to inclose both those in course of erection at South Kensington, will crown Sir Joseph's new design. A complete plan of this palace will, we are informed, be sent over for the International Exhibition, and an ample portion of space will be accorded every country without application.

MR. GUINNESS HILL.—Mr. Hill, who figured so prominently in the Rugby romance, has at last been released on bail. At the close of the examination of the case about a month ago the magistrates decided on committing him to take his trial at the next assizes, but directed that he might be admitted to bail. None was forthcoming at the time, and it seemed as if Mr. Hill would be compelled to remain in prison until the case was disposed of in due form of law. On Friday week, however, his brother, the Rev. Mr. Hill, and another gentleman came forward with the required sureties, and the accused has been released. The trial may come on at the special assizes to be held in the course of the next seven weeks, otherwise it will be postponed till the spring assizes in March next.

WARMING RAILWAY CARRIAGES.—The London and North-Western Railway Company, with the view of availing themselves of the system of warming carriages from the exhausted steam of the engines, introduced with success in France last winter, has a trial of the invention (by way of experiment) at Wolverton station the other day with the most favourable results. This mode of using the waste steam involves only a trifling expense.

Literature.

The Romance of a Dull Life. By the Author of "Morning Clouds" and "The Afternoon of Life." Longman.

Both the former works of the accomplished lady who wrote this "romance" have been brought by us before the readers of this journal, and with words of cordial and respectful welcome. We are now sorry to be forced to say that, while the cordiality and the respect remain, or are even increased, we must qualify the welcome very much. Let us be quite sure that there is no room for misunderstanding, however. We take due note of the author's warning—that the book is to be read in an autumnal twilight mood. We take due note of her dedication "to those who know the weight and worth of dullness." We allow her all the good merits of manner and thought; but, after so much is said, we have to add that the book, considered as a literary performance, is a dead failure, being, unfortunately, "dull" in a sense different from that which she intended. We quite agree that the romance of a life may be built upon a superstructure as flimsy and inappreciable (to the common eye) as that which is here presented as forming the basis of the romance of the life of Constance Felton, the heroine; but we deny that this authoress—notwithstanding the obvious truthfulness and *fact-fufulness* of many passages in her narrative—has the power of making individual experience live again in forms that the imaginations of others can readily or even comfortably grasp. The story given to the reader is that of a young lady who had lived a secluded life as a member of a family whose career was somewhat isolated through narrow means, and of her first, last, and only love. This love is prevented from flowering by a trivial thing—a very common case, no doubt. At the moment the "declaration" was coming, the young lady was compelled to break an engagement to ride home with the gentleman, and the only explanation which her notions of modesty permitted her to offer to him was not conveyed to him by the mediator to whom it was sent. Towards the close of the volume a second lover appears upon the scene, and his relations with Constance are sketched with even more than the author's usual subtlety and with striking truthfulness. She refuses him—or, rather, saves him from the pan of being refused—because she feels that she cannot, on the one hand, offer him a sufficing love, or, on the other, satisfy the *exigence* of her own highest consciousness by accepting his. We are heartily glad to find a writer seriously maintaining this ideal of the passion in a story of commonplaces, and only regret that the power of execution falls short of the will. Four hundred odd pages of moral criticism and analysis of feeling, with no more leading incident than we have mentioned (except, indeed, that the first lover makes a silly marriage, separates from his wife, and dies abroad), is what ordinary English readers will not away with. If the authoress does not care that they should, we have nothing more to say; but we are satisfied, let her appreciate "dullness" as she may, she never meant her book to be the wearisome affair it really is.

We need not observe that this volume contains numerous subtleties of moral observation which will be to some persons both interesting and valuable. It is useful to be reminded that "temper and little intricacies of family diplomacy often divide near relatives," so that one cannot feel at all sure the most ordinary message confided to a sister for a brother's ear will reach its intended destination. There is instruction for a good many in the remark that the lesson of simply doing your duty, come what may, is often misleading "in cases where a careful consideration of what is likely to follow is more of a duty than the immediate performance of what seems right; because the best intentions are often no safeguard against the worst results." It is excellent to remember that living too much together exposes people to a mutual criticism too close for happiness. All this is good, but it needed either to be cast, unfeetingly, in the essay form or to be illustrated by vividly-told incident. This "romance" is an unlucky compromise which will please nobody.

The authoress has had the great wisdom to leave her story without a "moral" drawn by herself. One moral that she might have drawn is that a great deal of misery comes of the acquiescence of weak minds in what has really nothing to show for itself by way of *raison d'être*. A little more *just* self-assertion on the part of Constance would have made the tale a different one as to its main issue and in a hundred subordinate particulars. On page 303 she is represented as submitting to be put down by

The muffled smile of worldly insolence
That dastards use,

in a manner which even a poor young lady visiting rich friends should have resented on the spot. Charmed with features in the scenery which to "Sir William and Lady Eddowes" were a mere nothing, the young lady praises them out of an innocently full heart. She is silently pooh-poohed, and then rebuked by being referred to something better worth looking at in the landscape. We should have thoroughly admired the girl if she had repelled the indignity there and then and packed up her boxes on getting in doors. Tastes differ, no doubt, but there is a muffled murmur of pain and expostulation running all through this little "romance," which is plain proof that the authoress has in her own heart asked, not without bitterness, the question, whether the game of good society is really worth the candle—the candle whose wick (if the image will pass) is so cruelly fed, and against whose flame so many sweet bright spirits hourly burn their wings.

D'Almaire and Co.'s New Work upon the Art of Tuning the Pianoforte and Harmonium. By an Eminent Tuner. D'Almaire and Co., New Bond-street.

Any person who has had the opportunity of living in a quiet family, especially in one of those new lathe-and-plaster paradises with which Pimlico has been so especially afflicted, must know the horror experienced when the piano-tuner is in the street. The girls practising is nothing to it. A nocturnal concert of cats is melodious in comparison. It penetrates from house to house, and gives the listener sensations similar to those inculcating the approach of cholera or too close an adherence to the theory of cheap wines. From this Messrs. D'Almaire and Co. relieve us. Again, wherever there is a pianoforte, the annoyance is felt of how to treat the tuner when he comes on his monthly visit. The youngest darlings do not hesitate to treat him as a friend. They tread upon his toes, steal his wire strings, and (we speak advisedly) crush his hat. But mamma (papa, of course, goes out) is at a loss. She is afraid of being intimate, and dares not be so distant as she would be decorous. From these dilemmas Messrs. D'Almaire and Co. relieve us. In a few little pages the principles and practice of tuning are explained, and the whole made clear to those moderately acquainted with the instruments by pictures of the musical notes as they appear before and after tuning. It is manifest that a pianoforte or harmonium does not become out of tune on every note all at once; therefore the system of clearing up arrears of dissonance should never be practised; but, on the contrary, every note should be set in order as soon as found to be defective. By this arrangement the horrors of tuning will become an occasional pang, instead of a periodical dangerous shock to the nerves. We take our food twice or thrice a day—not, like the boa-constrictor, once a month; but our nauseous medicines, which are against the principle of pure health, we are compelled to take now and then in large quantities because we neglect to take the slight sulphate or phosphate occasionally. The moral may easily be applied to the pianoforte or harmonium. Messrs. D'Almaire and Co. philanthropically come to the rescue, and teach all players to tune for themselves. The little book is clearly and honestly written; and, when we consider the difficulty of obtaining a competent tuner in town and the hopelessness of hoping for one in the country, it becomes a pleasure to relieve our readers of a difficulty which almost all must have felt by recommending to them this manual by an "Eminent Tuner."

PRAGUE.

The artist who desires to combine picturesque costume with ancient and imposing architecture goes to the capital of Bohemia. Built upon the seven hills which shut in the valley of the Moldau, Prague stands pre-eminent amongst the German cities for the beauty of its aspect from a distance; and perhaps, also, for its churches and palaces. The appearance of the city is more imposing than that of Vienna, since it rises tier after tier on the eminences which recede from the banks of the river, so that spire, and tower, and palace are visible from a great distance. On the right bank of the river lies the old town, which is, however, closely built, and somewhat gloomy—attributes which will at once indicate that it has been assigned as the Jews' quarter—a complete labyrinth of narrow and crooked streets, teeming with a population which are crowded together as closely even as a London lodging-house in a poor neighbourhood. The new town, however, completely surrounds this more ancient part of the city, and has fine streets and spacious squares, while the houses are lower and more healthy.

On the left bank of the Moldau lies Little Prague (or Kleinseite), situated in a valley formed by two heights—the Laurenzberg and the Schlossberg. This quarter is smaller even than the old town, but contains several fine palaces and lofty houses, beside some beautiful gardens of considerable size. On the Schlossberg, or Palace Hill, is built the quarter called the Hradchin, the smallest but by far the finest part of the city. Several of its palaces are of the most magnificent description. Including the town of Wissehrad and the village of Smichow, which are reckoned as part of Prague, the city is above ten miles in circumference and two and a half in diameter, not including the suburb. There are eight gates to the city, and it is surrounded by numerous fortifications, while the old town and the Kleinseite are connected by the bridge represented in our Engraving, which crosses the Moldau, and forms one of the most beautiful objects in the city. This bridge was commenced by Charles IV. in 1358, and completed by Vladislav II. in 1507. It is composed of sixteen arches, and is adorned with twenty-nine statues and groups of saints, while at each end stands a tower of great antiquity.

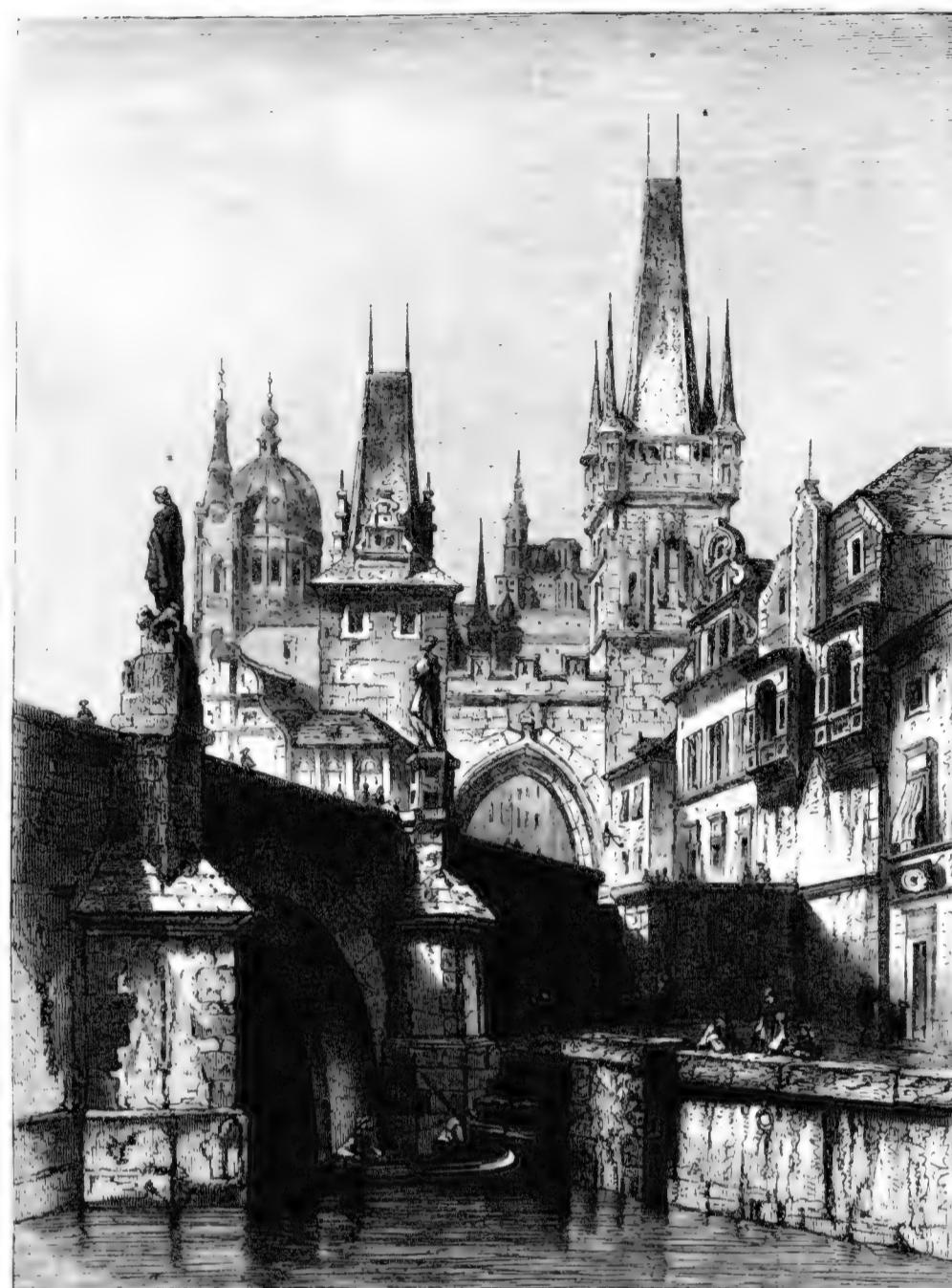
Amongst the great number of churches, palaces, and monasteries, perhaps the most noticeable is the Metropolitan Church of St. Vit, in the Hradchin quarter, the building of which was commenced in the beginning of the tenth century, and not completed until 1500, A.D. This superb structure is a great specimen of ancient German architecture, and contains twelve chapels, of which that of St. Wengel is perhaps the most richly decorated, as it contains paintings of the fourteenth century, and one of the Madonna, said to be the work of Holbein. In fact, this church abounds with curiosities and art treasures. The most magnificent monument of the cathedral, however, is that of St. Nepomuck, the patron saint of Bohemia.

The view of Prague from the steeple of St. Vit is exceedingly fine, since its elevation is more than 300 feet. Another very old church—

the cathedral on the Thein—was built as early as the end of the ninth century, and contains the tomb of Tycho Brahe, the great astronomer, who died in 1603.

Of the palaces, which are numerous and splendid, perhaps the

mingled with white and black blonde and flowers. The latter should harmonise with the hues employed in the bonnet, and are generally without foliage. A Paris milliner seldom allows a leaf to be seen in the trimming of a bonnet. Feathers are extremely fashionable,



THE KING'S BRIDGE AT PRAGUE.—(FROM A PICTURE BY M. STROUHART, IN THE ANWERP EXHIBITION.)

Imperial Palace in the Hradchin is most remarkable, both on account of its immense extent and the great beauty of its situation. It contains 440 apartments, amongst which is the celebrated Hall of Vladislaus, a glorious specimen of Gothic architecture. The palaces of the famous Wallenstein, of Czerny of Ledebour, and Schwarzenberg are also magnificent buildings.

In the old town are the college built by the Jesuits—a very fine structure, containing libraries, museums, and every adjunct of a large educational institution—the theatre, the mint, and several palaces. The Senate House, the Custom House, and the large and regularly-built Military Hospital are situated in the new town; the Archbishop's palace in the Hradchin.

The great University of Prague is believed to be the oldest in Germany. It was founded by Charles IV., on the model of that in Paris; and up to 1400 had so many students that, when the disputes arose between the foreigners and the natives in consequence of the voting, many thousands of the strangers left the University, and afterwards helped to establish those of Leipzig, Ingolstadt, Rostock, and Cracow. The schools of the University are still very numerous, and have attached to them a polytechnic institution, an academy of the fine arts, and a musical conservatory, as well as the Bohemian National Museum and Libraries. The University, indeed, possesses a library containing about 150,000 volumes and 4000 rare MSS. There are besides this a number of other libraries open to the public use, an advantage which is certainly not possessed by even the inhabitants of London, since our metropolis has no really public library except that of the British Museum. Prague also contains twelve hospitals, one of which receives patients without regard to difference of religion. The poor are provided for by poorhouses and societies, amongst which are ten public and private societies.

There is some obscurity about the time of the original foundation of Prague, some of the disputants declaring that it was built by the Marcomanni, and called Marobodonus, as early as the fifth century; others that it was established by the Czechs in 611; and a third party ascribing its origin to Queen Libusa in 723. At all events, it has borne a very considerable part in history, and for ages suffered a stormy existence, especially in the persecution of the Hussites; in the battle on the White Mountain, when, in 1620, the Elector Frederick V. lost his crown; in the blockade of the French corps in the city in 1711; and in the temporary capture and fearful bombardment of the city, in 1741 and 1757, by Frederick II.

FASHIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

BONNETS still continue to be worn open at the sides, and projecting in the centre of the forehead. They are trimmed with velvet of various colours, tastefully inter-



FASHIONS FOR NOVEMBER.

but they require to be sparingly and artistically disposed. Many bonnets of black chip are worn this season. They are trimmed with velvet and lace. For young ladies, especially at the seaside, hats of black straw are much in favour. Some of these hats have been trimmed in a novel style—with several rows of white piping, and in front a bouquet of white daisies or chrysanthemums.

Among the newest cloaks of the season we may describe two, both made of very rich black velvet. One has long full sleeves, and a double pelerine richly edged with soutache; the upper pelerine has long ends descending at each side in the manner of revers. The other cloak has a berthe of guipure, falling very low both at the back and in front. The trimming consists of rich passementerie.

A favourite style of trimming for silk dresses consists of narrow flounces formed of silk of two different colours, or of two shades of the same colour, and ranged alternately. Our Illustrations (Figs. 2 and 4) show specimens of this style of trimming. Flat bands of velvet are also much in favour. One broad row is placed quite at the edge of the skirt, and another, somewhat narrower, at a little distance apart. A sort of trimming consisting of cut-out velvet, or, as it may be called, velvet guipure, has recently been introduced, and is extremely effective for ornamenting silk dresses; but it is suitable only for silks of a very rich quality. We may mention that Fashion has amply responded to the appeal made in behalf of the distressed Coventry weavers—ribbon being now profusely employed in trimming dresses.

THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

Fig. 1. Dress for Half-mourning.—Robe of lilac striped taffety, the corsage low and the skirt without trimming. Over the corsage is worn a canezou fichu, ornamented with medallions of black lace. The fichu is edged by folds of white tulle and rows of narrow black lace disposed alternately.

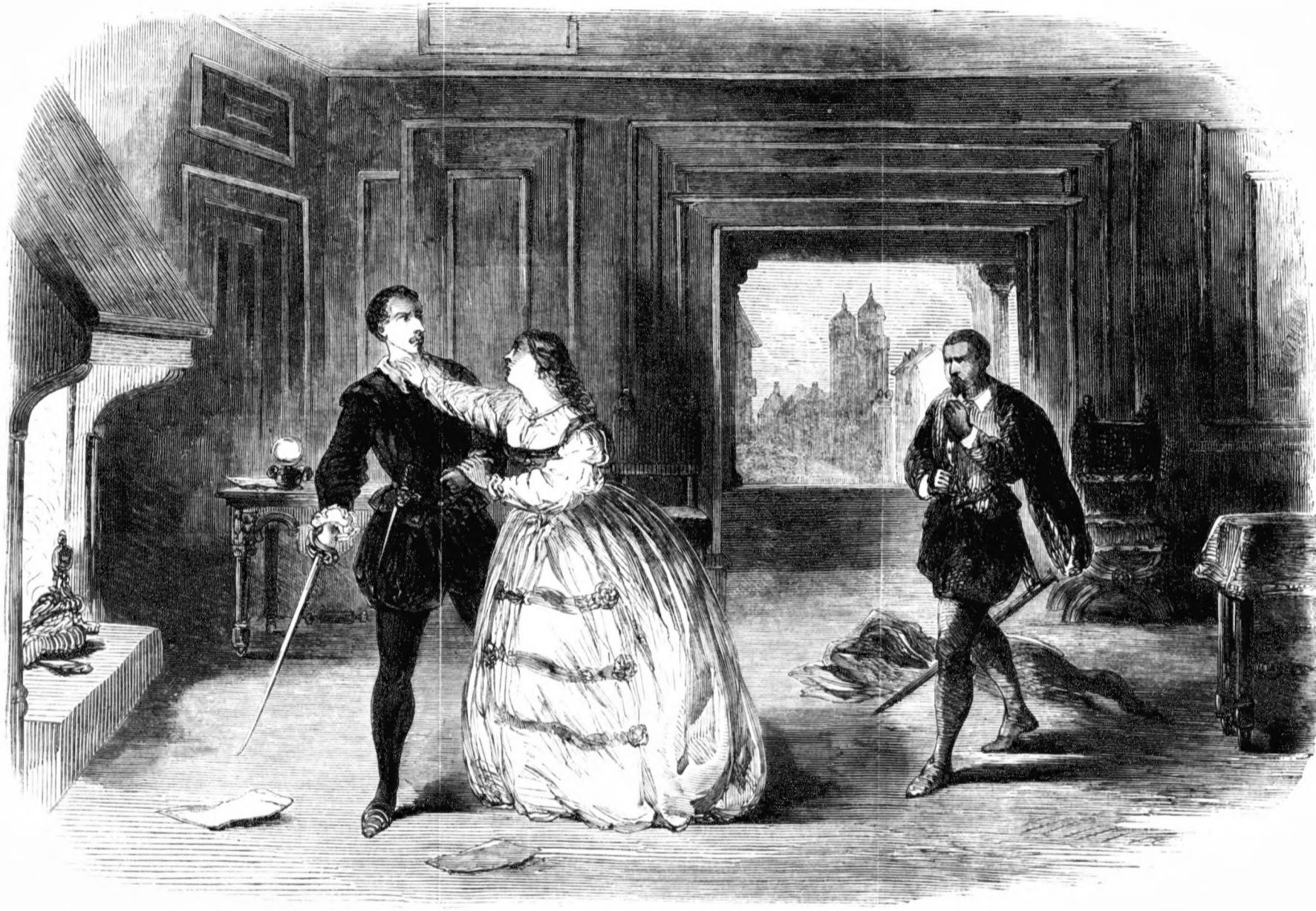
Fig. 2. Dress of green silk of two different shades. The skirt, of light green, has a broad flounce and a tablier front of dark hue. The back part of the skirt is trimmed with two narrow flounces, which are carried up to the waist in front, whereby the two different shades of green produce the effect of a double skirt. Below the tablier there are three narrow flounces of light green silk. The corsage and sleeves are of the light tint of green, and the trimming, consisting of fronces, is of the darker hue. Cap of white tulle, having a fall or voilette at the back. In front a diadem wreath, composed of roses and white hyacinth.

Fig. 3. Robe of striped silk, the ground white and the stripes green. The skirt is quite plain, and the corsage is in the form called the corset—that is to say, it has a standing-up point in the centre of the back and in front of the bosom. A ruche of green silk marks the edge of the corset, and, passing over the shoulder, forms epaulettes. On the neck is worn a high chemisette of clear muslin. The full long sleeves are also of white muslin, with ruches of green silk at the wrists. Ceinture of broad green ribbon, tied at the back of the waist. The headdress is composed of a bandeau of green ribbon, fastened at the back of the head in a bow and long flowing ends. In front a bouquet of roses, intermingled with small loops of green ribbon.

Fig. 4. Violet silk dress: the skirt with five narrow flounces, composed of two shades of violet, disposed alternately. The flounces are headed by a narrow ruche of dark violet silk. The corsage is high to the throat, and fastened up the front with violet buttons. The sleeves are set in full at the shoulder, and cut out in five large points at the ends, and edged with ruches of violet silk. The spaces left between the points are filled up by puffs of white muslin. Under sleeves and collar of lace; cap of white blonde, trimmed with violet ribbon and clusters of purple grapes.

"RUY BLAS" AT COVENT GARDEN.

MR. GLOVER'S new opera of "Ruy Blas," produced last week at Covent Garden by the Pyne and Harrison management, is founded on M. Victor Hugo's play, and Mr. Glover, who is both dramatist and composer, has adhered very closely to the original. He retains its division of four acts, and, with two slight exceptions only, the course and nature of the incidents. We have the hero in the first act as the romantic patriot, whom misfortune has degraded into servitude, and who, out of the abyss of his wretchedness, lifts his heart towards his Queen; and we have her evil genius in Don Sallust, who, failing in his scheme with his cousin, converts his passionate servant into the unconscious instrument of his revenge. We have this servant, in the second act, transformed into the nobleman, and bringing a letter from the King, which enables the Queen to identify him with the secret lover who has sent her verses. We have this servant, in the third act, still further exalted into Prime Minister, denouncing the dishonest nobles, and labouring to extend his country's good, visited by the Queen to confess her passion to him and to elicit his confession in return, and, when left by her in a dream of transport, visited also by his master, who comes back at this critical moment to reduce the noble and minister to his true condition of a lackey. We have also that terrible last act retained in its entirety—the Queen ensnared by her enemy to a midnight meeting with her lover, and only delivered from her ruin by the deserved death of the one and the sacrifice of the other. Now, were Mr. Glover as true a dramatist as he is manifestly a composer, he would have known that the gloom of this great subject—ideal as it is—requires its compression into the smallest compass possible, as well as its utmost relief by every just expedient, whether of movement or of humour. Three acts instead of four are the utmost dimensions he would have assigned it;



SCENE FROM MR. HOWARD GLOVER'S NEW OPERA OF "RUY BLAS."

the comic element contained in Don Pedro and the Duchess would have been adequately expanded, and the movement which he has so properly commenced in the first act, on the fete-day of the King, would have been continued in the second and third, which could easily have been accomplished by transferring the scene of the Queen from the interior of the palace to the palace-gardens, and by joining the third and fourth acts; the last act, measured by its action, being nothing more than a last scene. By this arrangement he would have given the subject a certain compactness and elasticity that would have greatly modified its weight, especially if, in addition, it had been combined with a little comedy, as well as have enlarged his opportunity for the introduction of a class of music which he can write with so much success. As it is, it is quite in his power to compress the opera to three acts, as above detailed, by merely the omission of some of the music which is not very effective and the introduction in the third act of a dozen words of explanation, and the gain in the entire effect would be very great indeed.

Of the musical merits of the piece we have treated in another column; a word or two as to our Illustration is all that need be added here. The scene chosen by our artist is in the last act, where Ruy Blas, determined to save the Queen and defeat the machinations of Don Sallust, obtains possession of the latter's sword, and is about to carry his threat of being his executioner into effect, but is implored by the Queen not to stain his hand with blood. This was the most effective dramatic situation in the opera, and elicited a round of applause.

THE PRISONERS FOR DEBT IN BERLIN petitioned the King of Prussia to be allowed to leave the gaol on the day of his Majesty's entrance into that city, in order to join their acclamations to those of his other subjects; and they proposed to give their word of honour to return to the prison in the evening!

THE THEATRES OF PARIS.

Of the seven theatres which are to be swept away by the Boulevard du Prince Eugène the *Revue Municipale* gives the following historical particulars:—1. The Petit-Lazzari was in 1789-92 the Théâtre des Variétés-Amusantes. This soon fell into the hands of an Italian, named Lazzari, who played the part of harlequin with such grace and suppleness that he became quite a favourite, and the public, consigning the real name of the theatre to oblivion, thenceforward baptised it Lazzari. This theatre was burnt down in 1798, and poor Lazzari, in a fit of despair at this accident, committed suicide. Under the Restoration a theatre for puppets only was erected on the Boulevard du Temple, and called the Petit-Lazzari, to commemorate the harlequin of former days. This theatre, in 1830, exchanged its wooden actors for others of flesh and bone. 2. The Délassemens Comiques stands on the site of the Théâtre des Associés, which flourished, in 1768, under a manager of the name of Beauvisage, who was succeeded by the clever harlequin Sallé, when the theatre assumed the name of Théâtre Patriotique du Sieur Sallé. In 1795 it was called Théâtre Sans Prétention. It was closed in 1807 by an Imperial decree, and transformed into the Café d'Apollon; but in 1815 Mdme. Saqui obtained leave to perform rope-dancing and pantomimes there, which, in 1830, were exchanged for vaudevilles. The old house was pulled down in 1841, and rebuilt in three months, when it assumed its present name. 3. Funambules was formerly exclusively devoted to rope-dancing, as its name implies; but since 1830 vaudevilles and pantomimes have been performed there. The concern was sold for 400,000f. a short time ago. 4. The Gaité was also, in 1759, a theatre for rope-dancing, under the celebrated Nicolet, who attracted all Paris to his show by the drollery of his performance, enhanced by farces of rather questionable morality. The directors of the Opera became so jealous of his success that they obtained an order in 1789 restricting Nicolet's performances

to mere pantomimes. But this restriction did not last long. In 1772 Nicolet performed before the Court at Choisy, on which occasion Countess Dubarry was so well amused that she caused the title of Théâtre des Grand Danseurs du Roi to be conferred upon this establishment. Nicolet set his brother managers the first example of generosity by giving the profits of a night's performance to the sufferers from the fire which, in 1777, destroyed all the booths of the Foire St. Laurent. His theatre assumed its present title in 1792; three years later it was called Théâtre d'Emulation, but Nicolet's widow restored the name of La Gaité in 1798. The celebrated fairy piece called the "Pied de Mouton" was performed here in 1806. The theatre was rebuilt in 1808, burnt down in 1835, and rebuilt in the same year at a cost of 443,000f. 5. The Théâtre des Folies Dramatiques has no history of interest to boast of; it was built in 1831 by M. Allaux, the inventor of the Neorama. 6. The Théâtre Impérial (*ancien Cirque*) was founded in 1780, by Astley, for equestrian performances; it was taken in 1794 by Franconi, who in 1802 transferred it to the old convent of Capucines. But five years later the Rue de la Paix was run through the grounds, and Franconi had to migrate, first to the Rue Monthabor, and then once more to the Boulevard du Temple, where he erected the Cirque Olympique. This was burnt down in 1826, and rebuilt in the following year. Before 1848 it changed its name to that of Théâtre Lyrique; and the concern will be transferred to the new buildings west of the Pont au Change under its present name of Théâtre Impérial. 7. The theatre opposite, as our readers know, is destined to replace the Théâtre Lyrique, which was built by M. Alexandre Dumas and others, on the Boulevard du Temple, in 1846, under the name of Théâtre Historique, and opened with the first representation of the drama called "La Reine Margot," which had considerable success.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. HOWARD GLOVER'S "Ruy Blas," for the libretto as well as the music of which he is responsible, opened the season of English opera at Covent Garden on Thursday week. A double delay in the production of the work has proved serviceable to us in our critical capacity, enabling us to write with some acquaintance with the opera. The postponement of the opening night from Monday till Thursday brought the affair to so late a period of our editorial week that a further pause necessarily ensued, and it is now after the opera has fairly entered on its run of success that we first find an opportunity of recording its favourable reception. To say truth, we cannot pretend to judge a musical work of any length on a single hearing, and without time even to recall its leading melodies. Nor is that promptitude of criticism which was once in vogue now general with our brethren of the daily press who have to report on the evening's performance in time for the information of the morning reader. The more sensible plan of suspending opinion, while giving descriptive details, has been adopted by all musical critics, a fact we may illustrate by special allusion to the admirably-written account of "Ruy Blas," which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* next morning, and which throughout two closely-printed columns altogether avoided any decisive expression of opinion. For the reason above given, this is an example we are not called upon to follow. The work of Mr. Howard Glover is now somewhat familiar to us, and if now we are not able to say how we like it, we never shall be.

Mr. Glover's claims to musical honours are universally admitted. As an operatic composer he has done little, but in other directions he has made a sterling reputation, among critics as well as the public. Some years ago Mr. Glover wrote an operetta, which was produced at the Haymarket Theatre, under the title of "Aminta." This, we believe, is the only lyric work ever composed by him for the stage; but his "Tum o' Shanter," a recent production, shows a true dramatic faculty, and those judges who founded on the work in question a belief that "Ruy Blas" would prove to be a veritable example of the genus grand opera have not been disappointed.

The name of the new opera at Covent Garden sufficiently indicates its theme. M. Victor Hugo's play is as popular here as it has ever been in France, where, by-the-by, it is now interdicted. A subordinate character in the original drama was elevated into the hero of a new piece, thus affording to M. Frederic Lemaitre in Paris, and to several melodramatic actors in England, from Mr. James Wallack downwards, an effective part in "Don Cesar de Bazan." From this drama, when it had been played at pretty nearly every theatre in London, Mr. Wallace took the story of his opera "Maritana;" a kind of musical and dramatic quadrille is now made up by the production of an operatic version of "Ruy Blas." Mr. Glover follows both the French play and the version acted at the Princess', importing one creation of his own—namely, a page named Oscar, who is prettily and cleverly represented by Miss M'Lean, a débutante. He omits the character of the chivalrous old courtier, Don Guritan; and with these slight alterations the reader who is acquainted with the original play may see at once the cast and the plot of the new opera. First we have Miss Louisa Pyne as the Queen of Spain; then Mr. Harrison as Ruy Blas; then Mr. Santley—welcome back to Covent Garden!—as the truculent Don Sallust; and then Miss Thirlwall, Miss Susan Pyne, Mr. St. Albyn, and Miss Jessie M'Lean in the several parts of Casilda, the Queen's favourite waiting-woman; the Duchess d'Albuquerque, a duenna of the old theatrical type; Don Cesar de Bazan; and the page Oscar, already mentioned. To this last character a special interest is given by making him in love with the Queen, in whose honour he sings a "copy of verses," very daintily set to music, which is introduced by a plaintive movement on the horn, and which becomes a trio by the dramatic interruptions of the Duchess and Casilda.

The melodies in "Ruy Blas" are strikingly original. As the fashion now is with our English composers, they are mostly accompanied with elaborately-harmonised instrumentation. Part-songs, another favourite means of displaying proficiency in high musical art, are not wanting. Miss Pyne's music is of the first order of excellence. "A Sympathising Heart," in spite of the cacophony of that middle word, which can hardly be sung without modifying its pronunciation, is the smoothest and most melodious ballad we have heard for years. The aria, in F sharp minor, "In the stillness of night, when alone in my bed," is yet more praiseworthy, in an artistic point of view, although it would hardly hold its ground so well as a popular morceau. Mr. Harrison has, of course, his "moments." The ballad entitled "The flower she loves" is exceedingly melodious, and well adapted to the voice of the English tenor. Its melody, in three-four time, is of the waltz character, and, though quite original, may easily be caught at the first hearing. The duets between Mr. Harrison and Miss Pyne are as meritorious and as pleasing as the solo pieces which fall to each singer. Mr. Santley's part of Don Sallust receives full justice at the hands both of composer and executant. A difficult scene, "My heart with rage is swelling," is admirably calculated to exhibit the full qualities of this fine singer's noble and sympathetic voice. In the concerted music Mr. Santley was often of great assistance. Minor parts in the opera were ably sustained by Mr. Patey, Mr. Distin, and Mr. Wallworth; and some incidental dancing was performed with good effect by Mdlle. Lamoureux and Mr. Payne.

In the barrenness of musical doings in London we are forced, critically as well as physically, to visit Brighton, where we find the indefatigable and accomplished Herr Kuhn giving a series of piano-forte recitals. The third performance last week included Beethoven's andante in F, Weber's Rondo Brilliant, a judicious selection from Mendelssohn's "Lieder ohne Worte," and a study of the artist's own composition, "Silberstrahlen," all which Herr Kuhn played with masterly effect. He was assisted by the vocal talent of Signor Badia.

THE VINTAGE IN ITALY.—The vintage is in full tide all over Italy, and a glorious one it turns out, both as to quantity and quality. There is not one of the winegrowers but bears a cheerful look and talks in a tone of great glee. The grape disease has made its appearance here and there, but it has done trifling havoc, and its virulence is everywhere on the wane. Henceforth there will be in Italy what may be called a wine trade. This is happy news for the people there, but it is no less joyous tidings for all the European people, and for the English especially.

GERMANS IN THE FEDERAL ARMY.—The following is given as a very nearly correct statement of the number of Germans in the Federal Army from the different sections of the country:—New England, 200; New York, 12,000; New Jersey, 2,000; Pennsylvania, 10,000; Ohio, 5,000; Indiana, 4,000; Illinois, 6,000; Missouri, 13,000; Minnesota, 500; Wisconsin, 2,000; Michigan, 1,000; Iowa, 1,000; Kansas, 500; California and Oregon, 2,000; Western Virginia, 1,000; Maryland and District of Columbia, 500; Kentucky, 500; Delaware, 100—total, 59,400.

THE CASE OF VINCENT COLUCCI.—Since the conviction of this prisoner he has been in a most melancholy condition, and it appears that the result of the trial was most unexpected to him, as he entertained a confident opinion that he should either be acquitted or that Miss Johnstone would not appear and give evidence against him. It has been stated since the trial—and there is very little doubt of the fact—that when the case stood for trial at the last sessions an offer was made to the prisoner, if he would plead "Guilty" and consent to the restoration of the £1600 that was taken from him at the time of his apprehension by Tanner, the officer, that the prosecution would apply to the Court to allow him to be discharged upon entering into recognisances to appear and receive judgment if he should be called upon to do so, but he positively refused to accede to this proposition. It was very much desired that Miss Johnstone should be spared the annoyance of appearing in a public court to give her evidence, and the prisoner no doubt anticipated this, and calculated that she would not do so, and that he should thus escape the consequences of his rascality; but when it was found that he would not agree to the liberal offer that was made it was determined that the case should proceed. The prisoner, it appeared, lived in the most luxurious and extravagant style at his residence in Ovington-square, and it will be remembered that £300 of his ill-gotten gains were expended in about three weeks, and, if his career had not been cut short so suddenly, in all probability the whole would very soon have been squandered away. In a few days the prisoner will be removed to the Millbank Penitentiary, where he will have to undergo his sentence.

DEATH OF SIR JAMES GRAHAM.

SIR J. GRAHAM died at Netherby shortly before noon on Friday week. For the last eighteen months he had been suffering from attacks of acute pain in the heart on the least extra mental or physical exertion. During the preceding day he was seized with pain of more than usual severity in the heart. Remedies were applied; the attack yielded to their influence, and he gradually improved. On Thursday week he was so much better that he told his medical attendant he thought he should shortly be able to dispense with his services, and, after having had dinner in his bedroom, he retired to bed about six o'clock, saying he felt all the better for having sat up longer than usual. Soon after that he had another attack of acute pain, which did not yield to the remedies applied. He expressed a strong conviction that it was useless to try any more remedies, as he was quite sure, from the long continuance of spasms and from his general feeling, that his end was at hand. He then gradually sank during the night, and died at a quarter before twelve on the Friday. His faculties were bright and unimpaired to the last, and he died expressing the utmost resignation.

His death will take the country by surprise. Although he had retired from the cares of office, his interest in public life was undiminished, and in the last Session of Parliament no man was more regular in his attendance at the House of Commons. Night after night, even in those dreary periods of the evening when the House thins, he was to be found in his place, and listening with the greatest patience to the longest-drawn speeches.

The deceased was eldest son of the first Baronet by Lady Catherine Stewart, daughter of the seventh Earl of Galloway. He was born in 1792, and was consequently in his sixty-ninth year. His political career has extended over a period of more than forty years. He represented Hull in Parliament from 1818 to 1820, and succeeded his father in the baronetcy in 1824. Two years later Sir James was returned for the city of Carlisle, in the Whig interest, to which party he soon became an important acquisition. In 1830 he was elected for the county of Cumberland, and became one of the most strenuous supporters of the Reform Bill, as he had previously been of the repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts and of Catholic Emancipation. On the formation of Earl Grey's Administration, the talents of Sir James were so much appreciated that, without previous official experience, he was nominated First Lord of the Admiralty, with a seat in the Cabinet. In 1832 Sir James was returned for the eastern division of the county of Cumberland, which he represented up to 1837. In 1834 dissensions in Earl Grey's Cabinet arose on the Irish Church question, which led to the retirement of Sir James, together with Lord Stanley (now Earl of Derby), the late Duke of Richmond, and the late Earl of Ripon. This disruption occasioned the early downfall of the Grey Administration. On Sir Robert Peel coming into power it was expected that Sir James would have joined his Administration; but with other members of the Derby party, he declined to do so, and publicly stated at the hustings that he had "no confidence" in Sir Robert's Administration, which, however, he subsequently supported by his votes in Parliament. At the general election in 1837 he had the mortification of being rejected by his former constituents, and remained out of the House of Commons until the following Session, when he was returned for Pembroke. In 1841 he was elected for Dorchester. In that year, on the late Sir Robert Peel being called upon to re-form a Ministry, Sir James took office under that illustrious statesman as Secretary of State for the Home Department, a post which he held until the dissolution of the Government in June, 1846. During his tenure of office under Sir Robert Peel he was an active supporter of the repeal of the corn laws and of the new commercial policy that statesman inaugurated. From 1847 to 1852 he sat as representative for the borough of Ripon, and in the latter year he was re-elected for Carlisle, which city he has since sat for in the House of Commons. On the Earl of Aberdeen coming into power in December, 1852, Sir James was reappointed First Lord of the Admiralty, and remained in the Earl's Ministry until the adverse vote on Mr. Roebuck's motion, "That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the condition of our Army before Sebastopol, and into those departments of the Government whose duty it has been to minister to the wants of that army." From that period he has not been officially engaged, having declined office in favour of others whom he thought better calculated to form an efficient Government. Sir James was an able administrator, and, although at the last two general elections he adopted extreme Liberal opinions, he enjoyed the esteem and respect of a large circle of his political opponents. It cannot be said that Sir James was ever a popular man, but he was always a formidable opponent in the House of Commons and on the hustings. The deceased was a D.C.L. of Cambridge, elected in 1835; and was Lord Rector of Glasgow University in 1840.

The late Baronet is succeeded in the baronetcy and estates by his eldest son, Frederick Ulric, born April 2, 1820, and married, in October, 1852, to Lady Hermione St. Maur, eldest daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Somerset. The present Baronet was attached to the Embassy at Vienna in 1812, and subsequently entered the 1st Life Guards.

SIR JAMES GRAHAM'S PUBLIC CAREER AND CHARACTER.

(From the *Times*.)

Few men whose lot is cast in revolutionary times escape the charge of inconsistency, and the character of Sir James Graham was not such as to counteract this well-known tendency. He was, in truth, a psychological phenomenon of a most singular kind. Nature had endowed him with great talents. It was difficult to be brought in contact with him on matters of business without being struck with the quickness of his apprehension, the grasp of his understanding, the facility with which he referred everything to principle, and his faculty of reducing the most complex political problems to something which seemed to approach very nearly to demonstration. He was a good scholar, a careful reader of both men and books, and no one was more happy in seizing upon phrases which exactly expressed the popular feeling of the moment in appropriate quotation and in pungent, though polished, sarcasm. He was an able and industrious administrator, and more than one of our public departments have felt the benefit of his amending hand. It is, perhaps, no exaggeration to say that, considering the variety and solidity of his acquirements, his great application, the logical and constructive nature of his mind, his great personal advantages and powers of impressive and convincing eloquence, Sir James Graham was the best educated and most thoroughly accomplished statesman of his day. Others might rival him in each of these perfections, but the union of them all was found in him, and him alone.

But the failings which marred the usefulness and obscured the brilliancy of talents like these were neither few nor small. The great understanding of Sir James Graham was not balanced by a judgment equally sound and comprehensive. In debate no one was more clear and plain in deliberation, no one more addicted to over-refinement and subtlety. He often failed in his appreciation of the present, and almost invariably in his prognostications of the future. He was, besides, for a great man, far too fond of the applause of the moment. A cheer in the House of Commons could often lead him from the thread of his discourse into indiscretions which he afterwards had every reason to regret; and when he appeared before his constituents on the hustings he exaggerated the character of demagogue to a degree which often made his speeches at elections the subject of serious embarrassment and annoyance. This extreme love of approbation spurred him into public life, from which another part of his character might have seemed likely to deter him. Never, probably, were such great practical powers united with such extreme moral timidity. It was agony to Sir J. Graham to take a decisive and important resolution, and when taken it was almost impossible

for him long to adhere to it. He always saw a lion in the path. He seldom or never made a speech without threatening his opponents with some species of external compulsion, with war, with popular insurrection, or national bankruptcy. His mind had many closets, and in each of them grinned a skeleton.

Driven by temperament, by patriotism, by love of business, and by love of applause, it to public life, and then forced continually to adopt resolutions which his intellectual defects and his moral failings frequently rendered unsound, and which his great abilities were often tasked unsuccessfully to defend, the situation of such a man reminds us of nothing so much as of a timid rider on a runaway horse forced to encounter fence, gate, ditch, and brook in agonising succession, and no sooner delivered from one difficulty than plunged by an inexorable necessity into another.

(From the *Standard*.)

In considering the career of Sir James Graham, we are led to ask not how did he so much, but why did he not accomplish more? He played a great part in the political history of his time; it seems surprising that he did not assume a more important one. He seemed to be especially marked out by nature for the place of a great statesman. He had a commanding presence, great wealth, a good old name, great natural talents sedulously cultivated, singular assiduity and industry. He experienced no difficulty in obtaining a general recognition of his claims to eminence. He took, almost without an effort, a place which other men only obtain after a long apprenticeship and many years of anxious watching. Fortune seemed to have resolved to complete her singular endowments by the chiefest of them all—opportunity. In every office he undertook he displayed a remarkable administrative skill. In the House of Commons he found scarcely a superior as a debater. He had a singular faculty of putting his own side of a question into happy expressions, which fastened themselves upon the public ear. He has been one of the mainstays of three Administrations, and each time it seemed probable that he would soon be its titular chief; but the expectation has been disappointed, and men far inferior to himself in debate and administration have stepped into the place to which he had the best right to aspire.

The truth is, Sir James Graham was very near being a great statesman, but never became one. He lacked one quality necessary to the leadership of a great party. It was not the irresolution or timidity to which some of his judges have ascribed his failure; it was the want of political character. Unstained in all the private relations of life, loved by his friends, and honoured by his dependents, he was always looked on with suspicion and distrust by the public, whose good will he must have conciliated to secure the recognition of his pre-eminence by his fellows. He had the reputation of being very clever, and not at all scrupulous, a belief which had some foundation, although he was by no means so black as he was painted. But the truth is, that he turned his coat too often. He was a Radical of Radicals before the Reform Bill; office apparently cooled his fervour, and he left the Whig Cabinet with the Duke of Richmond and Lord Stanley. It was natural enough, a legitimate process of development, that he should become a vehement Conservative, and Sir Robert Peel's most trusted colleague; but it was not intelligible to common minds that he should have turned a Radical again in his old age, and denounced his former friends in language more vehement than that employed by itinerant agitators. He continued, too, to create doubts as to his sincerity by the especial vehemence with which he advocated a side or view immediately before abandoning it. His zeal was assumed to be affected, and his assertions were taken to be unworthy of credence.

THE LATE EMPEROR OF CHINA.—The late Emperor Hien-fung was the son of Tau-kwang, who died in February, 1850, after a reign of thirty years. According to the Chinese laws of succession, the Sovereign has the power of nominating any male member of the Royal family as his successor. It is not necessary that he should be the eldest son, and he may even appoint a brother or uncle to succeed him, provided he has exhibited capacity and talents for governing more conspicuously than any other possessor of the blood royal. In this instance Tau-kwang nominated as his successor Hien-fung, his fourth son, stepping over the heads of three others. On his accession to the throne in February, 1850, great hopes were entertained of him, as it was evident that he possessed administrative capacity in a high degree. But he was a young man of a lascivious disposition, and abandoned the severe discussions of his council for the more palatable society of his harem, where he revelled in the luxury of a Sardanapalus, and, like his Assyrian prototype, clasped in the arms of Myrrha while Ninevah was surrounded by the Scythian hordes, so he sat in the Summer Palace of Yuen-Min-Yuen, among his wives and concubines, while the guns of the allied army resounded in his ears; and he had barely time to escape to the Tartarian Alps when it was sacked, burned, and demolished. The place of his retreat was the Palace of Zehol, on the frontiers of the empire, where it is hemmed in by the precipitous mountains of Tartary. Here he whiled away his time in indolence, while his brother, Prince Kung, assumed all the cares and responsibilities of government at Pekin. From the date of his retreat, early in October, 1860, he evidently languished, as reports of his illness from time to time were spread abroad, until, from mental and bodily affliction, which reduced him to a state of incapacity—like his contemporary zuerzio, the Sultan of Turk— he died inglorious in his thirtieth year, amid effeminate luxury, at nine p.m. on the 2nd of August, 1861, a victim to his appetites and a slave to his passions, which made him an impotent despot, and the first Emperor of China who has succumbed to European power.

THE LATE SIR F. PALGRAVE.—The will of Sir Francis Palgrave, K.H. Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, was proved in the London Court on the 12th ult.; it bears date the 16th of November, 1860. Sir F. Palgrave, whose original name was Cohen, assumed that of Palgrave soon after his marriage, it being the designation of a relative of his wife. Sir F. Palgrave filled the office of Deputy Keeper of the Public Records for many years, was formerly one of the municipal corporation commissioners, and had the honour of knighthood conferred upon him in 1832. He was called to the Bar in 1827, but appears never to have practised. He was a man possessing great literary taste, and has produced several works, some of them being unfinished at the period of his decease. The will, which is very brief, contains merely some family directions. His MSS. and correspondence be leaves to his sons, either to keep or destroy, as they may deem requisite, requesting them to select from his library any books they may prefer, as well as some personal ornaments to be retained by them as mementos. Sir F. Palgrave attained the age of seventy-three, and died a widower, and has left a family of four children, all sons.

BLOODY FRAY.—The capital of Moldavia has just been the scene of a fearful tragedy, in which several persons lost their lives. A Greek adventurer, named Popacost, calling himself a Major, who had been residing at Jassy for some time under the protection of the Russian Consulate, had an altercation a few days ago with the Moldavian Minister of Justice, shortly after which he addressed a most abusive letter to that gentleman. The Minister communicated this letter to his colleagues, and they at once decided that Popacost, although protected by Russia, should be immediately arrested and committed to prison. A Moldavian officer was accordingly ordered to take him into custody, and went to his residence for that purpose; but Popacost declared that, being under the protection of Russia, he was not amenable to the Moldavian authorities, and would kill any man who attempted to lay hands on him. The officer then returned to his superiors for instructions, and was soon afterwards sent back with a detachment of soldiers. As the Greek still refused to surrender, the officer ordered his men to seize him, but before they could do so Popacost killed four of them with his revolver and a fifth with a sabre. In striking this last blow, however, the point of the sabre got so firmly fastened in a board partition against which the soldier stood that before Popacost could extricate it he was overpowered and carried off to prison.

RATS.—In the last years of the Restoration in France a report was sent to the Minister of Marine, announcing the disappearance from board a brig of the Royal Navy of a piece of cannon, which was declared to have been "divorced by rats." The astonished Minister wrote, with his own hand, at the foot of this singular document, "Approved of, on account of the singularity of the fact." An incident more easy to digest, but still very extraordinary, has just occurred at Toulon, where 50,000 kilogrammes of Taganrog wheat, which the naval authorities had sent to be stored at the mills of Dardanne, have completely disappeared, and the rats, not satisfied with eating the corn, have devoured the sacks also. The Maritime Prefect, however, was unwilling to admit that rats alone could have done the mischief, and ordered an inquiry to be instituted. The consequence has been that the head miller has absconded, leaving a deficit in his accounts, as well as in his stores. The company has engaged to indemnify the Marine, and justice is now engaged in investigating the matter.

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